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THE TIMES

MOTERING
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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22 1991

40p

Cabinet moves to end speculation

Major says no to referendum over Europe

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE cabinet yesterday resigned itself to confrontation with Margaret Thatcher over the European Community as it agreed that there should be no referendum either after the Maastricht summit or in the future if a single currency were to be adopted.

The first sign of the hardened ministerial line emerged on the second day of the Commons debate when Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, flung back at Mrs Thatcher her words condemning a referendum on Britain's continued membership of the European Common Market in 1975.

The cabinet now accepts that no deal ministers are likely to bring back from Maastricht will satisfy Mrs Thatcher. Ministers have framed future tactics on that basis.

The former prime minister has let it be known that she will repeat her call for a referendum after the summit if she concludes that the clause allowing Britain to opt out of a

single currency is worthless. As the likelihood of a Tory split after Maastricht grew, Mrs Thatcher underlined her support for a referendum in an unprecedented clash in the Commons with Edward Heath. He, too, reminded her of her 1975 opposition.

She intervened to say that she had inherited the position from him and had "loyally upheld it". She added: "It looks to me as if the three parties are going to be for a single currency, sacrificing a great deal of the work that has previously been the right of parliament. How are the people to make their views known?"

The cabinet yesterday unanimously backed Mr Major in ruling out any referendum on a new European union treaty arising from the Maastricht summit. It also backed the view he expressed in the Commons that there was no case for one either at the point of entry to a single currency. Ministers know they cannot bind a future parliament but cannot conceive of the present cabinet changing its mind.

After a Downing Street wobble on Wednesday night, Mrs Thatcher's intervention has succeeded within 24 hours in hardening the government's line against a referendum to the point where its concession is inconceivable so long as Mr Major is in office.

After her speech on Wednesday urging ministers to "let the people speak", Downing Street concluded that she had been arguing for a referendum at the point in 1996 or later when the EC countries had to decide whether to set up a single currency. On that basis, after talks between Mr Major and his advisers, it was decided that an escape hatch could be left open to placate Conservative Euro-sceptics.

Downing Street sources emphasised that while there was no referendum planned on any Maastricht package, no parliament could bind its successor and the next parliament might decide at some point it wanted a referendum on the lines indicated by Mrs Thatcher, especially if all three main parties had gone into the election backing greater European integration. If feeling

proved sufficiently strong, it was suggested, the prime minister would not necessarily stand in the way.

Two developments then wrecked the hastily approved tactic. Mrs Thatcher's friends indicated that it was not a referendum in 1996 she was talking about but an early referendum on the Maastricht deal. Labour, getting wind of what was going on, put it about that "the backseat driver had seized the wheel".

The government appeared to have crumbled within hours in the face of pressure from Mrs Thatcher. Mr Major, who had rejected a referendum unequivocally on Tuesday, met senior colleagues on Wednesday night. Then at yesterday's cabinet all ministers backed his determination that there would be no referendum. One senior minister said last night that they were all happy for that to be known after Mr Major again told MPs: "We are a parliamentary democracy and I see no need for a referendum."

Pressed by Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, on whether he ruled out any referendums on EC issues while he remained Tory leader, Mr Major said: "On this issue I do not see the need for a referendum."

Mr Hurd earlier signalled the cabinet's willingness to join battle with her. He criticised her call for a referendum, saying: "Personally, I am instinctively against them. In our parliamentary democracy, the line of democratic accountability runs from the government to the House and from this House to those who send us here. If we take ourselves out of this line because the decisions are particularly important or difficult, it does seem to me that we are dodging part of our responsibilities."

There was no case for introducing a referendum because a particular issue had come up, Mr Hurd said, with Continued on page 24, col 5



Happy family: Tom Sutherland's wife, Jean, centre, and his daughters Joan, left, and Kit, talking to reporters in Wiesbaden yesterday

Britons are most patriotic in Europe

Robin Oakley reports on a European survey that says the British are the most willing to fight for their country

BRITAIN is the most patriotic nation in Europe, with more than two thirds of Britons (68 per cent) willing to fight for their country, compared with an average of 45 per cent across Europe, according to a new survey by the European Values Group of academics and social researchers.

The only other nations in which more than 50 per cent would fight for their country are The Netherlands (60 per cent), Northern Ireland (55 per cent), the Republic of Ireland (54 per cent) and France (54 per cent). Only 31 per cent of Germans and 25 per cent of the Italians say they would go to war for their country.

A clue to Britain's particular difficulties with greater European integration is provided by the poll's finding that 52 per cent of Britons are "very proud" of their nationality, compared with a European average of only 36 per cent. In the Republic of Ireland, 97 per cent said they were "very proud" or "quite proud" of their nationality, followed by 92 per cent in Northern Ireland, and 88 per cent in Italy. Germany was at the bottom of the league, with only 59 per cent.

The poll of 15,540 adults Continued on page 24, col 2

Friends of John McCarthy 'hindered hostage release'

FROM IAN MURRAY IN WIESBADEN

PUBLICITY generated by such groups as the Friends of John McCarthy probably prolonged the captivity of hostages in Lebanon, claimed Thomas Sutherland yesterday, the American agronomist released with Terry Waite.

Mr Sutherland said that although he was enormously grateful for the support he and his family received during the more than six years of his captivity, he had concluded from talks with his jailers that publicity had been counter-productive. "I think that, in general, it made it all have too high a profile," he said at the military hospital here, adding: "It gave the kidnappers a sense of importance and made them think they were going to get something out of it."

The young men who held him prisoner believed the kidnappings were the only way they could attract the attention of the world, he said. Only because the British and American governments had not given way did they come to realise that "if you want to be part of the new world, then you had better get this problem resolved", he added.

John, his wife, had adopted a low profile in trying to win

his release, he added. She had remained in Beirut teaching at the American University.

Over the years of his captivity she had helped more than 4,000 Lebanese students to learn to speak English. She said yesterday: "I wanted to make the environment better, so that it would become an environment in which he could come out and no others would go in."

Mr Sutherland said he was ready to go back to Beirut, where he still has a teaching contract. He had erroneously believed that his commitment to help and teach the Lebanese had made him unlikely to be a hostage target. "I thought that the message was getting through that here's one guy we ought to leave alone," he said. He still believed that the way forward for peace in the Middle East was by extending understanding through the medium of education.

Mr Sutherland was forced to delay his planned flight home yesterday after it was discovered that he had a peptic ulcer. He, his wife and two of his three daughters had hoped to be back in America in time to attend his father-in-

law's funeral in Ames, Iowa, today.

Uwe Fohlmeister, an air force doctor, said: "He will probably remain in the hospital for five to seven days. This [ulcer] is easily treatable and should cause absolutely no problem. He should heal completely." The doctor added that Mr Sutherland had started the day complaining of vomiting, nausea and a gnawing sensation in his stomach.

Dr Fohlmeister said Mr Sutherland might have had some ulcer problems for his last month or so in captivity, but had said nothing about stomach pains during earlier medical evaluation. "This condition is usually not found during a physical examination unless it's specifically looked for," he said.

In common with most of the released hostages, Mr Sutherland appears to have come through his captivity relatively unscathed.

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Nurse held on baby murders

By CRAIG SETON

A NURSE was remanded in custody "for her own protection" last night charged with murdering four children, including three babies, and attempting to murder eight others.

Beverly Allitt, aged 23, was accused of carrying out the attacks in the children's ward at Grantham and Kesteven General Hospital in Lincolnshire, between January and April. Parents of some of the children named in the charges were among those who packed Grantham magistrates' court for a five-minute hearing yesterday.

Miss Allitt, a former nurse at the hospital, was also accused of attempting to murder and causing grievous bodily harm with intent to eight other children, six of whom were under two.

A solicitor for Miss Allitt said that she would plead not guilty and contest the allegations. Reporting restrictions were lifted.

Full details and photograph, page 3

TODAY IN THE TIMES

CAREY'S VIEW



The Archbishop of Canterbury, in his first article for a national newspaper, reflects on Terry Waite's freedom
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WEEKEND TIMES

WRESTLEMANIA



Is a Hulk Hogan toy really every boy's dream this Christmas? Children get their own page tomorrow in Weekend Times

Review

PEERLESS GLASSES



Design guru Stephen Bayley eyes up the very best in spectacles in tomorrow's Saturday Review

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WHO SAID WHAT

Tuesday 3.25pm: John Major rejects the idea of a referendum "because we are a parliamentary democracy".
Wednesday 4.10pm: He tells Tony Benn: "I do not favour the idea of a referendum."

5.30pm: Margaret Thatcher calls for a referendum if all three parties agree to single currency. In those circumstances "we should let the people speak". Ministers assume she is talking of a referendum in a future parliament.

7pm: Downing Street officials, after consulting Mr Major, brief that a referendum is not ruled out for all time and that one parliament cannot bind another, prompting Labour accusation that "backseat driver has grabbed the wheel". Major returns from a reception to agree line with key ministers.

11.45pm: Francis Maude, Treasury minister, says that Mrs Thatcher proposed a referendum in 1996. It is not starting to suggest that this government and this parliament cannot decide on such an issue now, he says.

Thursday 11am: Downing Street statement says: "The government does not intend to hold a referendum on the outcome of Maastricht. There is no case for one and the government will not offer one." Single currency referendum would be for future parliament but "the prime minister's view remains that he sees no need for a referendum".

11.30am: Cabinet agrees there should be no referendum "now or later".

3.15pm: Mr Major tells MPs: "The government does not intend to hold a referendum on the outcome of the Maastricht negotiations. There is no case for one, and the government will not offer one." The question of a referendum on a single currency was "self-evidently a matter for a future Parliament. My view remains that we are a parliamentary democracy and I see no need for a referendum".

5pm: Mrs Thatcher's friends confirm she may yet call for a referendum soon after the Maastricht summit meeting.



Diva's dinner captures the flavour of Puccini

By KERRY GILL

OPERA singer Anne Williams King enjoyed a pizza with off-duty disregard for the sensibilities of her diaphragm, little realising that within minutes she would be called upon to step in at the interval to save Scottish Opera's production of *Madame Butterfly*.

Before the opera began, the audience at His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, was told that Maria Prosperi, the soprano, had fallen ill and would be unable to attend. In her place would be Andrea Delguidice, an American singer who had been flown in specially from Rome.

The audience settled down, entranced by Ms Delguidice's rendering of the Puccini classic, unaware that the stand-in was also beginning to feel a little

queasy. Ms Delguidice struggled with increasing nausea, caused by a viral infection, but by the start of the 20-minute interval she realised she could no longer continue and it was decided to abandon the performance.

Then someone remembered having heard Ms Williams King during a rehearsal for the company's performance of Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* that afternoon. They also recalled that she knew *Madame Butterfly* backwards, and remembered hearing her saying she was going out for an Italian meal that night. But where?

As the audience grew restive, theatre staff grabbed telephone books and rang every Italian restaurant and pizza parlour they could find in the city. The 20 minutes

stretched to 45 but, just as the opera was about to be called off, the dining "diva" was given her cue by a waiter.

"There wasn't even time to make me up," said Ms Williams King yesterday as she rested after her feat. "I was thrown at the stage. While I was waiting for the curtain to go up, I said to myself 'I don't believe this. I can't be here. I must be watching TV'. But I knew the role well. It all came together, and I dived in."

She said: "It was a marvellous experience, but I would not want to repeat it, especially on a stomach full of pizza, which does nothing to help the diaphragm." Ms Williams King, from Wrexham, Clwyd, received an ovation.



Williams King: tracked down in a restaurant

Record review, page 16

Army holds banquet in ruins of Vukovar

FROM BILL FROST IN VUKOVAR

OVER goulash and talk of atrocities, Yugoslav federal army commanders yesterday staged a bizarre victory celebration in the banquet hall of a gutted hotel on the banks of the Danube at Vukovar, eastern Croatia - the town they stormed over the weekend.

Against a background of automatic weapons fire from the ruins around the hotel, an officer with the Serb-led army explained that the destruction of Vukovar had been unavoidable. "This was the fortress cradle of Croatian fascism," said Colonel Miodrag Starcevic.

Moments before the celebratory banquet began at the Dunav hotel, federal army officers had led journalists to a pile of bodies opposite Vuk-

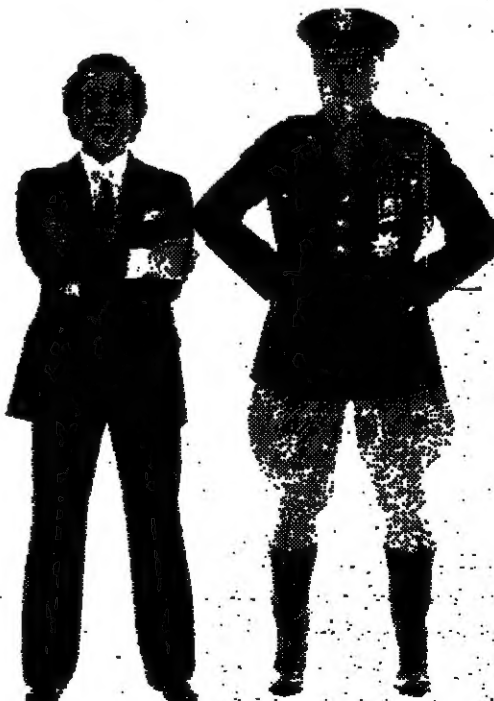
ovar's all but destroyed hospital. Some of the dead, men and women, were the victims of Croatian forces, Colonel Starcevic said. Most of the corpses had hospital identity tags on their toes, however, suggesting that the house opposite the building had been used as a makeshift morgue during the height of the siege.

Inside the hospital itself a handful of critically wounded patients waited to be moved home to Croatia. An old woman brandished a 3in-square piece of shrapnel surgeons had removed from her stomach only days earlier. "The pain is bad, very bad. But I could be dead, I was lucky," she said. The base-

Continued on page 24, col 6

Truth in crossfire, page 14

Bijan, generally speaking...



I like your designs!

biyan
cologne
for men

Sea changes in world power could sink Trident strategy

TODAY, MPs will question the government's nuclear strategy in a Commons debate. With the principal rationale for Britain's nuclear systems, to help prevent war with the Soviet Union, extended to embrace other scenarios, there is a danger that the government's justification for replacing the Polaris ballistic missile submarines with four Trident boats will be undermined.

The need to deter Saddam Hussein from launching a nuclear bomb is being put forward as one reason for a strategic deterrent. This may be an argument for developing a tactical air-launched missile to replace the RAF's free-fall bombs, but nobody would be impressed with the suggestion that £10 billion of taxpayers' money be spent on Trident in an attempt to deter Saddam.

With the world changing so quickly, the temptation for politicians is to broaden

Michael Evans explains how public perception of political upheavals may threaten Britain's nuclear programme

the interpretation of nuclear deterrence to cover all options, whether Iraq, the North Korean regime, the Soviet republics or that favourite political word, instability.

Such a loose interpretation may satisfy the public, but it is not an argument to deploy in a serious debate on nuclear policy. There are three reasons for maintaining an independent deterrent: to help counter-balance the Soviet arsenal of 27,000 nuclear warheads, however friendly the leaders of the nuclear-weapon republics are towards the West; to provide a constant warning that a large conventional attack could lead to a nuclear exchange; and to ensure that Britain retains a leading role on the international stage.

If the United States and the Soviet republics disband substantially more of their nuclear weapons over the next few years than is planned under the strategic arms reduction treaty (Start), the importance attached to each of these three reasons will change. If the American and Soviet arsenals were halved after Start had been implemented, Britain would come under pressure to make an appropriate response. But to remain a permanent member of the UN security council, for example, Britain, whether Conservative or Labour run, would need to stay a nuclear power.

In the meantime, the government has a public relations challenge. In three months, HMS Vanguard will be lowered into the water at

Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, the first of the Trident ballistic missile boats to be completed. Nearly 500ft long and with a 42ft beam, it is the largest submarine deployed by the Royal Navy.

In three years, Vanguard will be on patrol in the Atlantic as Britain's new generation strategic deterrent. About 70ft longer than Polaris, Vanguard's first public appearance will demonstrate, a few months before the general election, how significant a step the government has taken in modernising Britain's strategic deterrent.

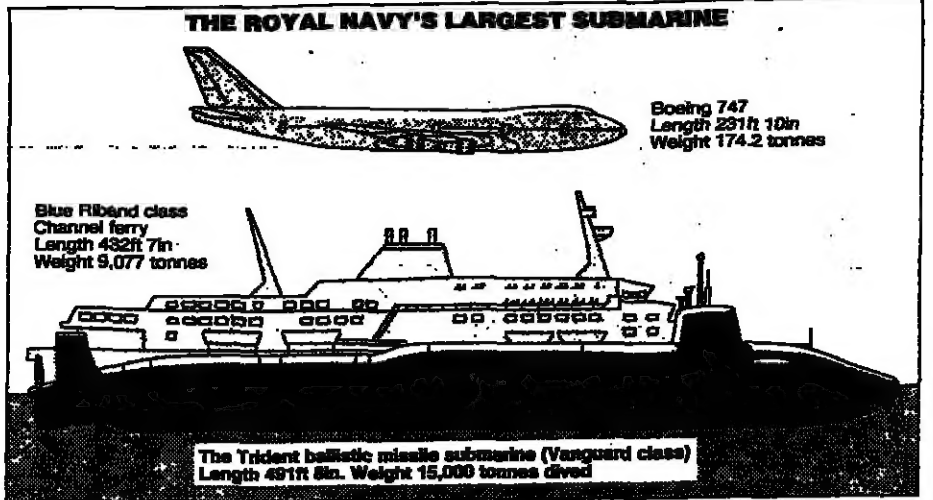
Sir Michael Quinlan, permanent under-secretary at the defence ministry and an authority on nuclear deterrence, said in an address to the Soviet general staff in Moscow last year: "If nuclear weapons... are to play an effective and dependable part in war prevention, they must be capable of actual use in

some rational way. Weapons are not just symbols on a diplomatic chessboard, and weapons which have no credible use can have no power to dissuade."

"We are therefore logically compelled to ask ourselves... the disagreeable question, what is the use of which our armoury must be evidently capable?"

Each of the Trident boats will be capable of carrying 128 warheads. The Trident missile has been designed to penetrate the Soviet anti-ballistic missile system around Moscow. Its deterrent value depends upon it. So even if the Soviet nuclear arsenal is reduced further, the government will be able to claim that the Trident represents a minimum deterrent.

The nuclear planners have worked out that a ballistic missile submarine needs a minimum of 16 missiles, each with eight warheads; to



pose a credible threat to the Soviet Union. The empire may have disintegrated but there is no other criteria upon which the nuclear planners can work. Nevertheless, when the public sees the size of the Trident boat — if stood

on end, more than three times the height of Nelson's Column — it may need convincing. Britain will buy the first batch of 23 Trident missiles from the US next year, according to the US senate

armed services committee. No cost was given. The defence ministry in London refused to confirm the figure. The government has earmarked just under £1 billion to buy an estimated 60 to 70 missiles.

Iran thought Waite was linked to CIA

By LIN JENKINS

TERRY Waite's kidnappers believed he was a CIA spy when they took him captive, and the Iranian government also thought that he had a link with the American secret service, Mr Shamseddin Khareghani, Iran's chargé d'affaires in London, said yesterday.

Asked, in a Sky News interview, how close the link was, he said: "I can't tell you how close. But there was a definite link." Mr Waite's family has always denied that

he was involved with the US administration in his dealings with hostage-takers and has said that he has assured them that he has answers to all accusations.

Mr Khareghani said his country was almost ready to resume full diplomatic relations with London after the severing of ties nearly three years ago over the Salman Rushdie affair. "I hope we can resume better relations in the near future. We are determined to have better relations

with Great Britain. Britain is a big country, with good technological support and good people. The upgrading of diplomatic relations will take place as soon as conditions are right. And that will be soon."

His optimism was echoed by the Foreign Office, which told Sky News: "The red light has turned to green."

Terry Waite himself spent a quiet second day back home in Britain yesterday with a visit from his 77-year-old mother.

Lena Waite, who had been staying with her other son David in Witney, Oxfordshire, arrived during the afternoon at the special suite in the officers' mess at RAF Lyneham, after her son had undergone further routine medical tests.

Group Captain Ian Corbitt, Lyneham's commander, said Mr Waite was particularly thrilled by the hundreds of books sent by well-wishers since he was largely deprived of reading material during his captivity.

Mr Corbitt said Mr Waite had enjoyed a short walk in the grounds of the station, with his wife Frances and had celebrated Holy Communion with his family in a brief service conducted by Canon Richard Chartres, a Lambeth Palace official.

The couple's children, twins Claire and Ruth, aged 25, Gillian, aged 24, and Mark, aged 20, were also at the base. Mr Waite is expected to stay there for several days.

Sutherland claim, page 1
George Carey, page 18
Letters, page 19

Happiness is walking back to work

By JAMIE DETTMER

A SENIOR civil servant who lost her legs in an IRA bombing blunder last June walked jubilantly to work yesterday to the applause of her colleagues at the Industrial Development Board in Belfast.

Celia Gourley, the board's former director of trade development, had vowed soon after the bombing that she would return to work with razzmatazz. Yesterday, she kept her defiant pledge and walked through the board's main doors with the aid of sticks.

"I swore I would get back on my feet and now I have proved it," she said as government officials and staff at the board cheered the steps that marked an important moment in her personal crusade against the bombers.

Mrs Gourley, aged 46, lost her legs above the knees after a Semtex bomb exploded underneath her white Peugeot 205 car outside her home in Drumbeg, Co Antrim. The IRA "apologised" and claimed she was a victim of mistaken identity. Mrs Gourley rejected the apology, saying, "I do hate the bastards."

The road to recovery was slow and painful. Mrs Gourley spent 11 weeks in hospital and then went through intensive physiotherapy to learn how to use her artificial limbs.

"It has been a physical struggle rather than a mental or emotional one because there is a great deal of physical energy involved," she said yesterday. "I have had so



On her feet: Mrs Gourley after yesterday's triumph

much support from my husband Bob, my family, colleagues and friends. When Bob told me in intensive care that it was an IRA mistake and that they were sorry, it made me very, very angry. Anger was the great motivat-

ing factor. It could, if I allowed it, ruin our lives and it was anger that kept me going." She was presented with flowers as she walked in. "I have been looking forward to this day for five months," she said.

Farmers fear EC changes

By RAY CLANCY

LOCAL authorities' restrictive planning policies and European reforms are the biggest threats to British farming in the 1990s, a Country Landowners' Association conference was told yesterday.

Proposals by EC farm commissioner Ray MacSharry to shake up the present farm support system will accelerate economic decline in the UK, drag down farm incomes and lead to more rural job losses, Hugh Duberly, deputy national president of the association, said in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

He predicted that the MacSharry proposals would benefit small scale peasant farmers on the Continent at the expense of British farmers who are mostly medium or large scale producers.

Mr Duberly also accused local authorities of unsympathetic and bad planning policies. He said the survival of many rural communities depended on developing other sources of income such as farm shops and farm products. He accused the environment department of "being restrictive and councils of being inconsistent. Councils should encourage, not inhibit diversification of farming businesses, enabling the re-use and adaptability of rural buildings," he said.

Dick Dancy, business consultant with the agricultural development and advisory service, told farmers at the conference that change in eastern Europe could open up opportunities for food producers and that they should also look towards the European market as an area for development.

Joyrider kills woman

A woman was killed and her three passengers injured when a stolen car, driven by a boy who had run away from a children's home, crashed into them near Filly, North Yorkshire, on Wednesday night.

The boy, aged 16, was taken to hospital, where police are waiting to interview him. His four young passengers, who were also in care in Pontefract and Wakefield, West Yorkshire, were arrested at the scene of the crash. Wakefield council's social services department has ordered an enquiry into the accident.

The dead woman was named yesterday as Barbara Ross, aged 56, of Filly.

Writer's award

Lindsay Cook, money editor of *The Times*, has won the Philip Chappell award "for contributing most to the lives of others". The award, presented in London yesterday, was in recognition of her campaigns in the *Weekend Money* pages on behalf of consumers. The award was made as part of the Financial Services Woman of the Year Award, created and run by the Financial Exchange.

Driver dies

Ice and fog led to a series of accidents across southern England yesterday, leaving one driver, Jason Bradshaw of Crawley, Sussex, dead after a collision on the London to Brighton road.

CORRECTION

Victoria Glendinning's book review yesterday said that Nigel Lawson's son is called Mark. He is, of course, called Dominic.

Richard Branson's PC?

We'd like to think that, as Chairman of Britain's favourite airline, Richard uses the world's most powerful pocket computer. Truth is, the Psion Series 3 is so new we doubt if he's even seen it yet.

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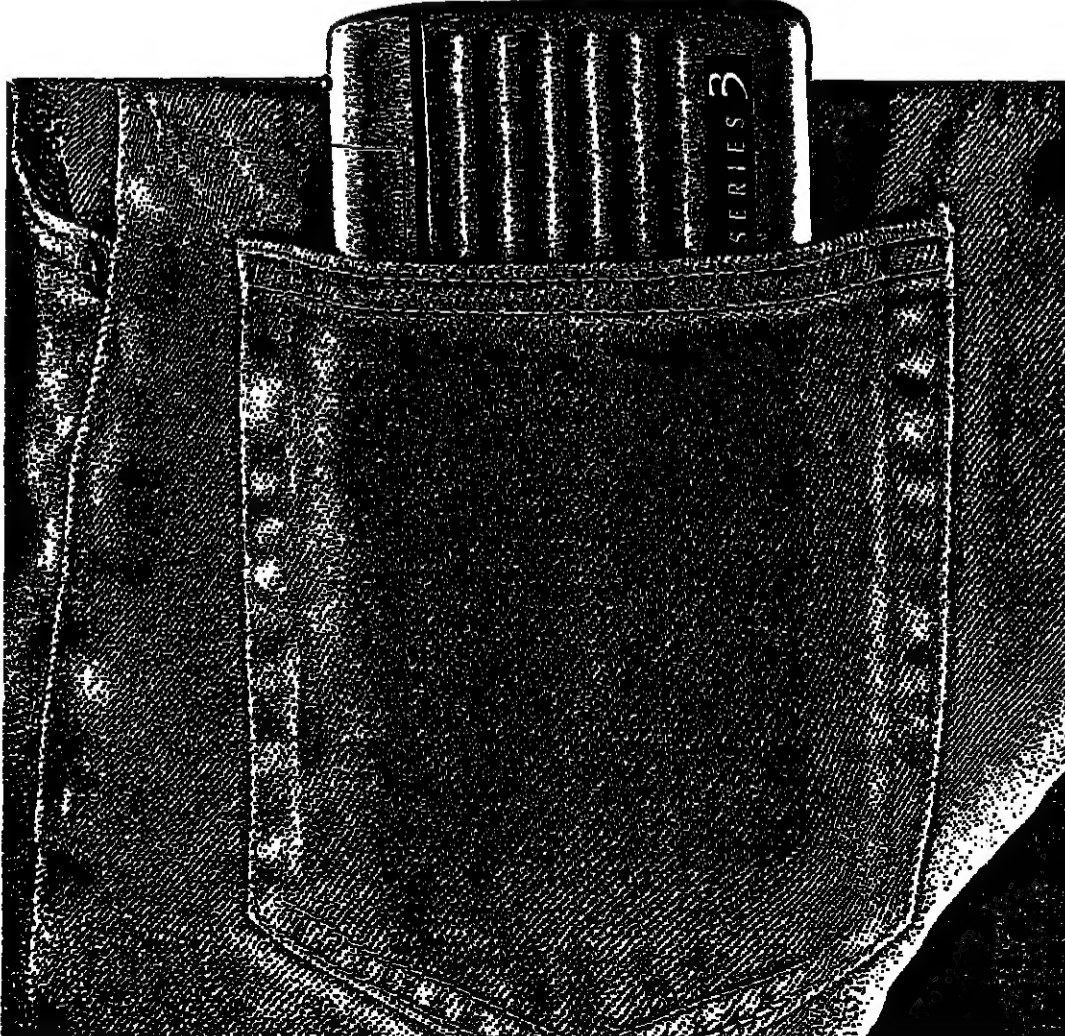
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THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22 1991

Families pack court as nurse is accused of murdering babies

By CRAIG SETON

A FORMER nurse appeared in court yesterday accused of murdering three babies and a boy aged 11, and of attempting to murder eight other children at the Grantham and Kesteven general hospital in Lincolnshire.

Parents and relatives of the children packed into Grantham magistrates' court when Beverly Gail Allitt, aged 23, appeared for a five-minute hearing. Reporting restrictions were lifted on the request of the defence lawyer, who said that Miss Allitt would be denying the allegations.

The magistrates remanded her in custody for her own protection after hearing that local feelings were running high over the charges, relating to eight boys and four girls from the children's ward at the hospital where she worked, between January and April this year.

Three of the murder charges involved babies aged between seven weeks and 15 months. Miss Allitt was also accused of attempted murder and grievous bodily harm with intent involving eight children, six of them aged under two years. One of the murder charges and one accusation of attempted murder relate to twin baby girls.

Miss Allitt, of Grantham, sat facing the three magistrates as Philip Howes, for the prosecution, asked for her to be remanded in custody. He said that bail should be withheld because Miss Allitt might fail to surrender to custody, and added: "There would be a risk for her welfare and for her own protection if she is granted bail."

Mr Howes said that the alleged offences had received national media coverage when Lincolnshire police began enquiries on May 1. The Grantham hospital had asked the police to investigate a number of "suspicious incidents" in the children's ward. Enquiries had been complex and intensive and a file had been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Howes told the magistrates: "Obviously, feeling is running high in the locality, understandably, especially as far as relatives of the children

murdering Liam James Taylor, aged seven weeks; Becky Phillips, a twin, two months; and Claire Peck, 15 months, all of Grantham; and Timothy Hardwick, aged 11, from Newark, Nottinghamshire. She is also charged with attempting to murder and inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent on Kayley Desmond, 22 months; Paul Crampton, 13 months; Bradley Gibson, six years; Yik Hung Chan, two years nine months; Katie Phillips, a twin, 10 months; Christopher Peasgood, nine months; Christopher King, eight months; and Patrick Elstone, nine months. All the children are from the Grantham and Newark areas.

John Kendall, for the defence, said that he would make no application for bail and asked for reporting restrictions to be lifted. He said the hearing was the first opportunity she had had to indicate that she would be pleading not guilty to all the charges. "They will be fought through the courts at the appropriate time and in the appropriate place," he said. He asked for legal aid and said that the prosecution had had the benefit of leading counsel since June.

Norman Dodson, chairman of the bench, lifting reporting restrictions, told Miss Allitt: "We have decided to refuse bail and remand you in custody because there are substantial grounds to believe you will fail to attend court and we are satisfied you should be kept in custody for your own protection." Miss Allitt was remanded in custody until November 28 and granted legal aid.

Allitt court told of risk to her safety if granted bail are concerned. There is a clear risk to this woman's safety if she is granted bail."

He said that conviction would result in a lengthy custodial sentence and added: "Clearly, although she has been on bail and had these matters hanging over her, charges have been brought and she must realise the enormity of what she faces."

Miss Allitt is accused of



Clearly valuable: Charlotte Wrey, aged two, from Clapham, southwest London, offers a sweet but inappropriate treat to the latest occupants of a 200-year-old goldfish bowl, which is expected to fetch up to £10,000 with mahogany stand in auction at Christie's, London, on December 5

Detective denies taking bribes over brothel

By RICHARD DUCE

A BROTHEL madame paid a police detective £36,000 over seven years as protection against prosecution, a court was told yesterday.

After three court appearances and a six months jail sentence, however, she decided she was getting a poor

return for her money. Southwark crown court was told.

Maria Thornton, aged 41, then decided to expose Detective Sergeant Graham Golder to a newspaper and secretly tape recorded a conversation in which the officer said he could help her with a forthcoming court appearance in return for £800. Thornton

has for many years been running brothels and controlling prostitutes in north London. Dorian Lovell-Pank, for the prosecution, said: "She is a madame and has a number of convictions for soliciting, prostitution and brothel keeping."

In 1981, after a chance meeting in a pub, Mr Golder

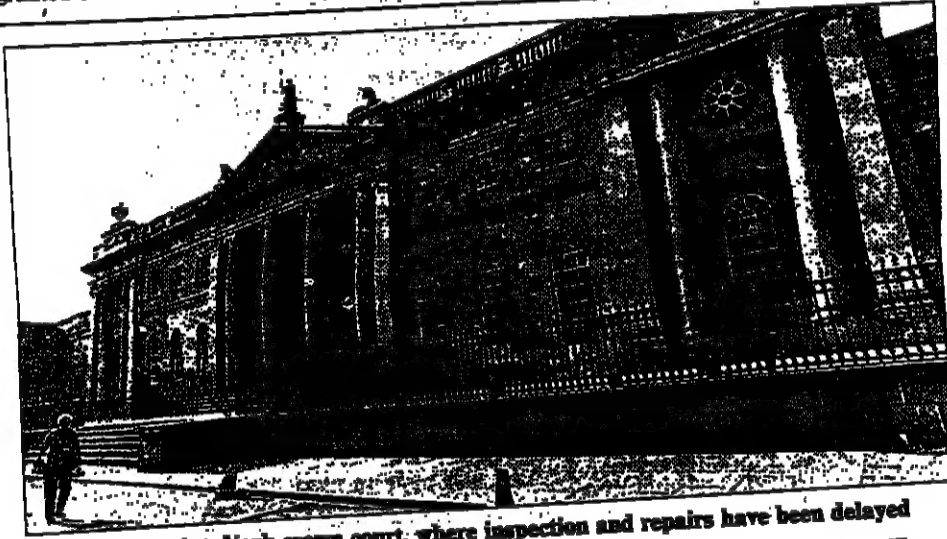
put a proposal to Thornton. "He knew she kept a brothel. He told her: 'I can help you but it will cost you a one-off (£100) a week.' He said he would keep his eyes open and warn her about any police observations on her brothel."

"She believed it would be a good investment if she had a policeman in her pocket. She

thought by paying him it was some kind of insurance policy against prosecution," Mr Lovell-Pank said.

Golder, aged 44, of North Weald, Essex, denies 13 charges of corruption between 1981 and 1988. The money was allegedly paid in a brown envelope every week.

The trial continues today.



Case in point: York crown court, where inspection and repairs have been delayed

Historic buildings owned by government 'neglected'

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MANY historic buildings in the government's care are deteriorating to below the legal standards, a National Audit Office study has found.

Sir John Bourne, the public auditor, yesterday criticised the conservation of listed buildings such as the Dundee custom house, York crown court, 4 St James's square, London, and Teddington Hall. He called for urgent action to preserve the 600 properties of historic merit owned by the government after examining the standards of repair in a sample.

"To do otherwise would increase the risk of some buildings becoming seriously dilapidated and necessitating large scale and expensive repairs," his report said.

The auditor said that, because of poor record keeping, they could not comment on the condition of all the buildings. A close study of five found poor housekeeping with blocked gutters, unsympathetic repairs and breaches of health and safety standards.

HM Customs and Excise was found to have spent 11 per cent of its 1990-1 general maintenance budget on repairs to the Dundee custom

house, which houses only 32 of the department's 27,000 staff. After investigating the care of York crown court the auditors criticised delays in inspecting the listed building and carrying out repairs.

At the former Astor family home in St James's Square, the auditors found a history of indecision and poor repairs as the Grade II listed building housed a variety of public bodies. The auditors found

in Teddington Hall, built in 1863, to be in a "deplorable state with serious structural defects, extensive dry rot, a holed roof, decayed brickwork and fallen internal and external decorations. The stairs were too dangerous to be used and the fireplaces had been

stolen.

● The Earl of Shelburne, president of the Historic Houses Association, has

called for a new deal to safeguard the future of great country houses still in private hands (Marcus Binney writes).

"Well intentioned government provisions allowing owners to establish maintenance funds are not attractive enough and few owners have taken advantage of them," he said, urging that the funds be made tax free. In return, owners would accept that such funds were irrevocable and would attach to the property in perpetuity, even if it was sold.

Research for the association shows that of more than 10,000 family seats recorded 100 years ago, only 1,450 could be shown to have been in the same family for two generations or more. Over the past 18 years 400 such properties had been sold, often because of soaring costs of maintenance and repairs.

Scots wilderness may be saved

By KERRY GILL

A HIGHLAND estate comprising 77,000 of the most important wilderness acres in western Europe may be saved for the nation, contrary to earlier fears.

During the summer it looked as if Mar Lodge, which contains five of Scotland's highest mountain peaks, remnants of the ancient Caledonian pine forest and varied species of rare wild birds, would be sold privately after the government refused to contribute to its purchase.

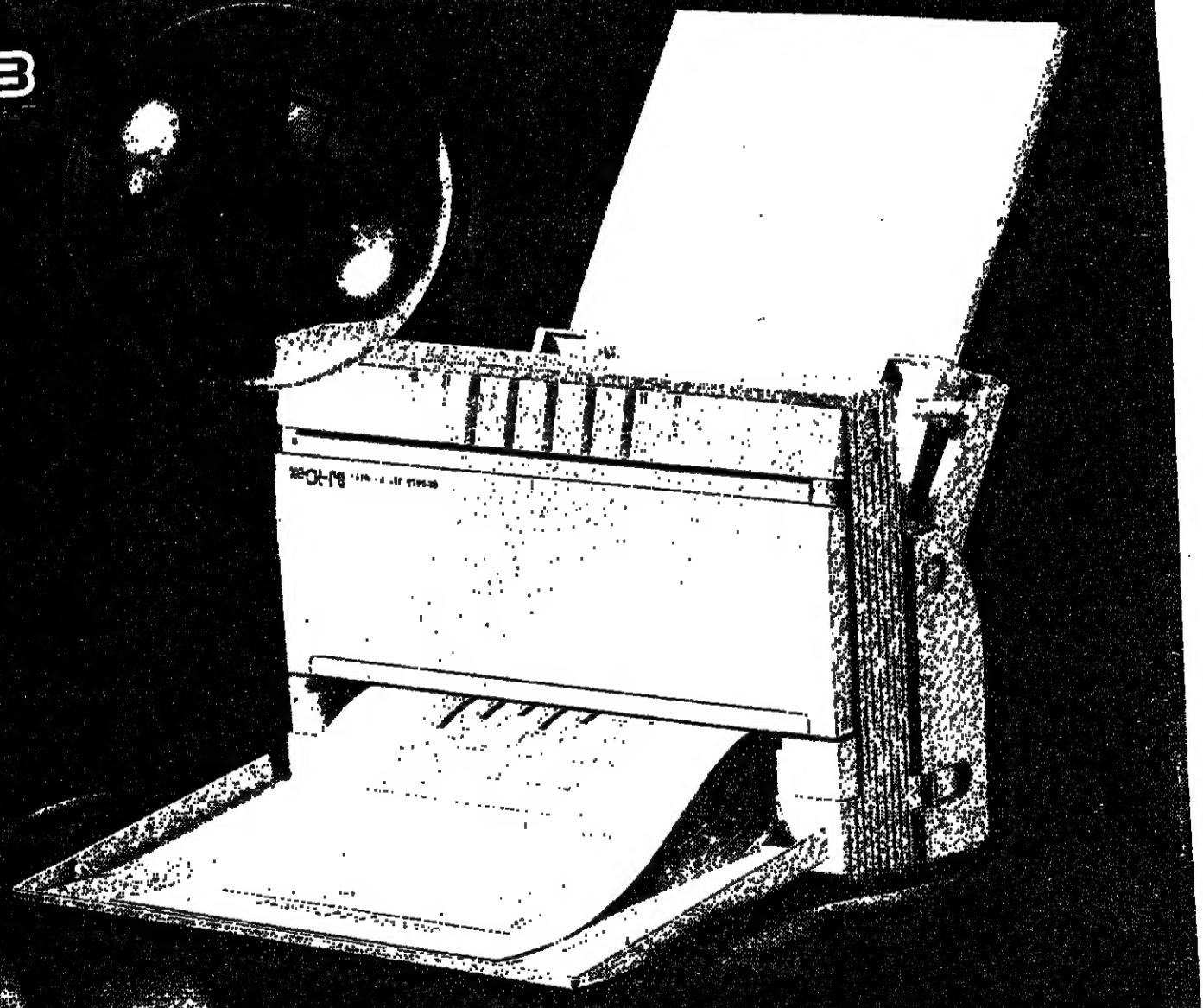
The estate, in Royal Deeside, was placed on the market almost a year ago by John Kluge, its American billionaire owner. But now the purchase could be made possible by an offer from the National Heritage Memorial Fund to meet about half the cost, said to be about £10 million. Conservation groups, including the World Wide

Fund for Nature, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Chris Brasher Trust, have promised up to £5 million as long as the remainder comes from the public purse.

If the heritage memorial fund makes a satisfactory offer, the consortium could begin negotiations with Mr Kluge. Although the fund, whose money is provided by the environment department, may not feel able to afford £5 million, conservationists hope that any shortfall would be met by the government. The fund refused to comment.

However, a change of heart by Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, has led to the government supporting the conservationists' case, to the chagrin of a group of Scottish landowners who had expressed doubts and opposition to the proposal.

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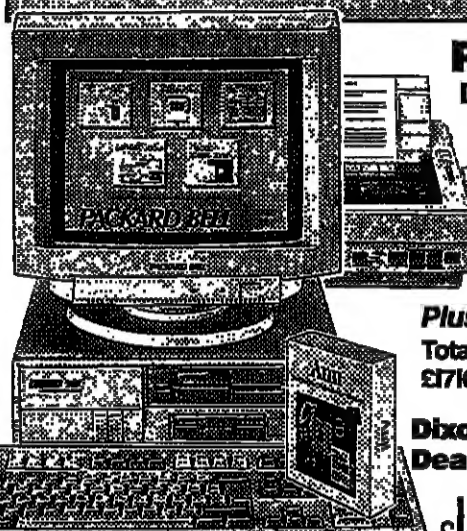
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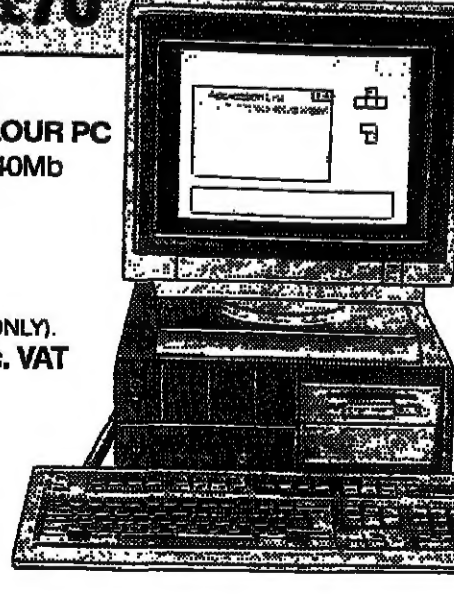
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Goodman flies back into holiday trade as consultant

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

A PLAN to create a charter airline which could help to relaunch the flamboyant Harry Goodman into the travel industry, albeit as a "consultant", will come before the Civil Aviation Authority for a ruling early next month.

Mr Goodman, whose International Leisure Group collapsed in the spring with debts of about £400 million, has been working closely with Hugh Parry, the former group finance director, in setting up a small airline to carry holiday-makers to Europe and the Middle East.

Mr Parry stressed that Mr Goodman, who technically is employed as a consultant, had no financial stake in the new airline and was not a director. His expertise is, however, being used daily as the com-

pany, Crawford Aviation, prepares its case for the aviation authority on December 3. Objections to the application have been lodged by two rival airlines and a number of individuals, some of whom were expected to object to Mr Goodman's involvement. Others argued that the authority should tighten controls on the new airlines it sanctions, in view of the collapse of at least five, including Mr Goodman's Air Europe.

If Crawford Aviation is given the go-ahead, it will start by leasing two Boeing 757s, probably from Air Europe's redundant fleet, and base them in Manchester to tap the northern market. The aviation authority will have to decide whether the airline is financially sound, and fit and proper to be given an air transport licence.

Mr Parry said yesterday: "We will be well financed and have already sold out our capacity for next season. Mr Goodman is employed purely as a consultant and we are free to take his advice or not as we wish."

Mr Goodman was closely involved as a consultant in the setting up of Riva Travel, based, like Crawford Aviation, in Crawford Place, central London. Riva expects to arrange 25,000 package tours next year, mainly to Mediterranean resorts. The managing director of Riva is Jackie Kernaghan, also a former ILG director. The two other directors, Richard Moore and Yannis Alexandrakis, an hotelier, are on the board of Crawford Aviation.

The heads of 12 European national tourist organisations will meet in London next week as concern grows over the impact of mass tourism on the environment, the possible effect of the social charter and the easing of frontier controls.

The meeting was called by William Davis, chairman of the British Tourist Board, who hopes that agreement can also be reached on ways to improve facilities for disabled people, whether school holidays should be staggered, and how to control petty crime against tourists.

Death car trial halted by judge

A crown court judge yesterday stopped the trial of a heart surgeon charged with causing the deaths of a couple who died when the automatic BMW car he was test driving went out of control and hit their Metro head on.

Judge Dean told the jury at Leeds crown court to find Nigel Saunders, aged 45, not guilty of causing the deaths of Elizabeth Clayton, aged 84, and her husband Ronald, aged 75, by reckless driving last January.

The judge said that Mr Saunders, of Adel, Leeds, West Yorkshire, was not aware of the full capabilities of the high-powered car. He said the prosecution could not prove Mr Saunders had been reckless.

Rare birds fine

Anthony Parkes, an amateur bird-watcher, of Torquay, Devon, was fined £1,800 for being involved in the illegal importing of eggs from two of Europe's most rare birds. Nine marsh warbler eggs and four marsh harrier eggs were found by customs in a parcel addressed to him.

Drink acquittal

Carol McKenzie, aged 54, of Pinner, west London, was cleared of drink driving after Isleworth crown court ruled that a breath freshener spray containing alcohol might have pushed her breathalyzer reading over the legal limit.

Heart attack

The Queen's racing pigeon manager Alan Pearce, found dead after his car crashed into a tree at South Raynham, Norfolk, died from a heart attack, a pathologist said.



Goodman employed as consultant to airline firm

Bowbelle widower clear to prosecute

By PETER VICTOR

A MAN whose wife was killed in the Marchioness river boat disaster has been given the go-ahead to bring a private prosecution for manslaughter against the owner of the dredger Bowbelle and four senior managers.

Ivor Glogg, whose wife Ruth Hadden was among the 51 killed when the Bowbelle collided with the Marchioness on the Thames in August 1989, was at Bow Street magistrates' court yesterday to hear the decision to allow committal proceedings against South Coast Shipping Company, of Canute, Southampton, its operations manager Peter Butcher, marine manager Brian Darwell, company superintendent Edward Greenwood and general manager Robert Samuel.

The four men were remanded on unconditional bail until January 6, when committal proceedings will begin unless defence counsel seek a judicial review in the High Court. Mr Glogg hugged friends and relatives outside the court after the decision.



Soap judgment: Frans Lanting, winner of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year award, holding up one of the faces that made him a winner: a hippopotamus issuing a warning of its intention to

charge. Mr Lanting's pictures from Okavango, Botswana, where he worked on assignment for National Geographic magazine, beat 10,000 entries from 40 countries. Mr Lanting, from Santa

Cruz, California, was presented with a bronze statue and a cheque for \$600 by Sir David Attenborough at the Natural History Museum in west London. He also won a Caribbean holiday.

Couple made love in street for a dare

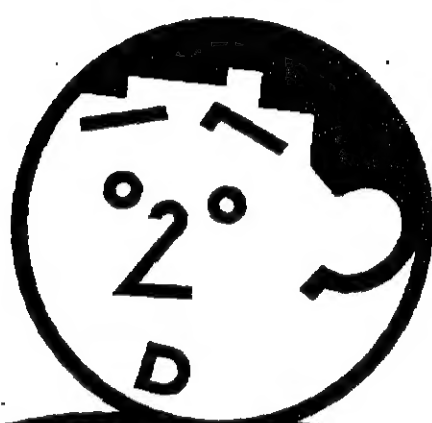
A COUPLE who brought traffic to a halt by making love on a mini-roundabout in a market town were fined £100 each yesterday.

A court in Frome, Somerset, was told that Clive Secker, aged 27, the son of a former town mayor, and Amanda Broomfield, aged 25, stripped naked in full view of shoppers for a dare after they had been drinking. Traffic came to a halt in Bath Street.

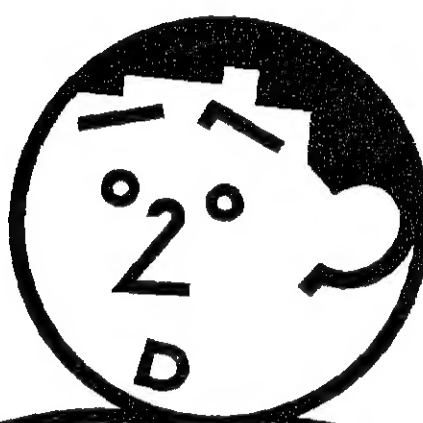
Secker told police: "We were there because we dared each other. Both of us wanted to see how far we could go. We went all the way."

Ann Jeffries, for the prosecution, said: "Patrolling policemen saw the couple standing naked in front of pedestrians. They were causing considerable traffic jams." Mrs Jeffries said that when Broomfield was later interviewed by police she said: "We did it for a dare, I just stripped off. I am sorry."

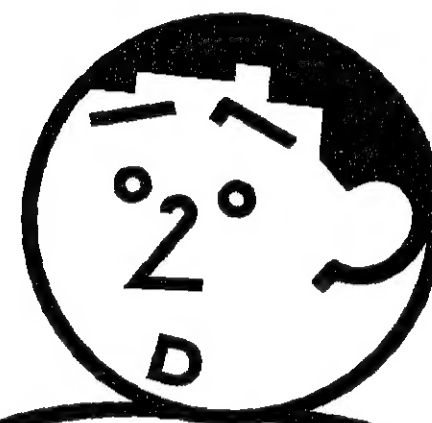
The couple from Keyford, Frome, Somerset, both admitted disorderly behaviour likely to cause alarm or distress. They were each ordered to pay £23 costs.



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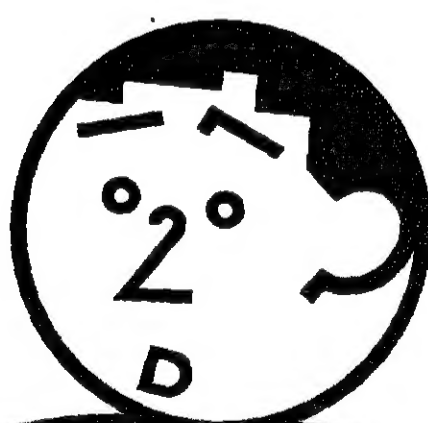


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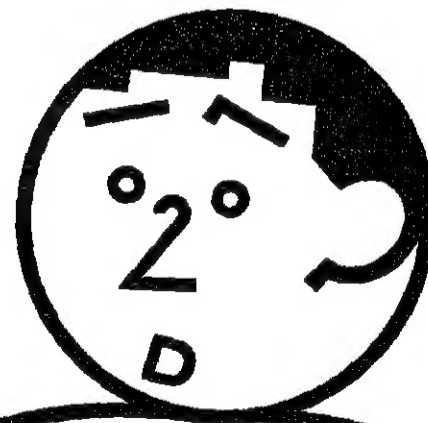


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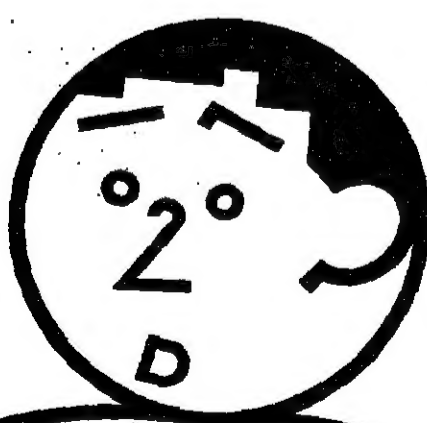
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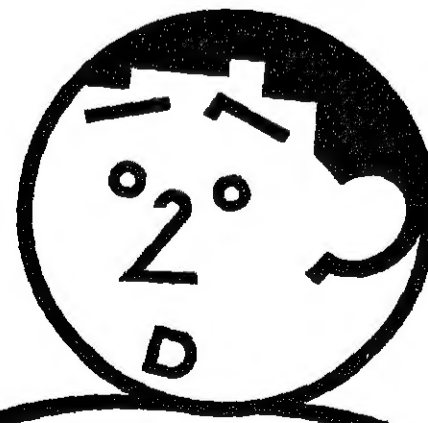
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Heart watch tells when time is up

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A WATCH has been developed which not only tells the time but warns wearers if they are in imminent danger of a heart attack.

A mini-electrocardiograph, devised by Kenneth Matsumura, director of science and technology developments for the Alin Foundation in Berkeley, California, is designed to fit inside an electronic watch and pick up electrical signals from the heart.

The invention has been tested using computer-generated signals and on volunteers who exercised vigorously to simulate conditions consistent with the onset of some kinds of heart attack.

Around 1.5 million people in America and about 200,000 people in Britain have heart attacks, with a fifth getting none of the traditional warnings such as chest pains. It is claimed that the device, likely to cost about £50, can detect up to half of all attacks, including those that come with none of the normal warnings.

Interpreting the electrical signals from the heart is notoriously difficult and modern hospital electrocardiographs rely on a huge processing capacity to analyse the whole signal.

Aware that such a system would be too big to fit in a

watch, Mr Matsumura developed a device which instead looks for changes in just six parts of the signal. Those changes are processed by a microchip which then triggers an audible alarm.

Whether the watch becomes a commercial reality will depend on approval from the US Food and Drug Administration, which could take up to five years.

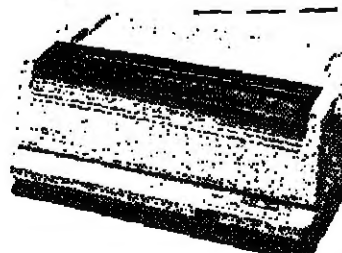
Some cardiologists have also expressed doubt over how effective such a device might be in giving victims enough warning to be of value.

Mr Matsumura says that electrical changes indicating that a heart attack is on the way can occur up to an hour before it starts, but Richard Vincent, professor of medical science at Sussex University, said that for most patients the warning was a matter of minutes.

Professor Vincent is also concerned about the reliability of the device and whether, by triggering false alarms, it might carry more hazards than benefits to the wearer. "I think it is an interesting idea. For a few people where it gives an accurate reading and allowed them to take an appropriate response one cannot deny it could be of value ... on a widespread basis, however, I would be extremely hesitant," he said.

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Mr Meacher has announced that he will be introducing a bill to reform the pension system. The bill is expected to be introduced in the House of Commons in the near future. Mr Meacher is a member of the House of Commons and is known for his work on pension reform. The bill aims to address the issues of pension funding and the role of the state in providing pension benefits. It is expected to be a significant piece of legislation for the government.

Strict funding rules under local management threaten rural education's smallest units

Self help keeps alive heart of community

NESTLING in a remote Cumbrian valley of striking beauty, not far from Derwentwater, is Borrowdale School, a small primary school which caters for 20 children aged five to 11, and which has taken extraordinary fundraising steps to avoid extinction.

This year Borrowdale became subject to the formula funding arrangement, introduced as part of the government's local management of schools, which ties a school's resources to the number of pupils it can attract. Faced with this, Colin Illman, the school's headmaster, called a community meeting in February 1990 to explain that the 1.2 teachers provided for by the formula would not be enough. "With the onset of the national curriculum and testing, I didn't think it would be possible. I work a 26-hour day as it is."

Reluctantly, Borrowdale acknowledged that the short-

Can a school with only 20 pupils and two full-time staff teach the new national curriculum? Matthew d'Ancona finds the answer

fall could be met only with private resources to pay for more help. Donations from the school's existing trust and its local church St Andrew's were supplemented by raffles and covenanted contributions. More unusually, a precept of £3 a head was added to the local community charge, after a referendum indicated 85 per cent approval for the idea. In all, each of Borrowdale's 340 registered voters now pays about £34 a year towards the school's upkeep.

Formula funding, Mr Illman said, calculates teachers' pay with reference to an average wage irrelevant to a

small school such as his, which employs a headmaster and a senior primary teacher. "I read of teachers' pay rises with trepidation," he said. "Every pound put on my wages is another pound the school has to find." By April 1992, his budget will have been reduced by 60 per cent.

Parents are anxious not to surrender the gentle community spirit of the school to bureaucratic rationalisation. There are normally two classes, with children aged up to seven in one, and those aged 7-11 in the other. A French and music teacher works two days a week, a special needs teacher is there every day and a welfare assistant spends 20 hours a week with one child. Parents also help out.

Anne Cornthwaite, a mother of three, said: "I value what's available here and appreciate it. For the primary age it's a lot better to be in a smaller group." If the school closed, her four-year-



Fighting back: Borrowdale primary school, Cumbria, saved from closure by local raffles and contributions

old daughter Arabella would have to travel six miles to Keswick each day.

The Rural Development Commission argues that Borrowdale epitomises the plight of small rural schools throughout Cumbria. Of the 300 primary schools in the

county, 70 have fewer than 50 pupils, partly because the shortage of affordable homes in some areas has driven young families into the towns. In Borrowdale, for example, a small three-bedroom cottage costs up to £130,000 and the location of

the valley in the Lake District national park means that planning permission for new housing is often refused.

The commission says that the government's education policy should take greater account of rural factors, the problems of access to remote

areas and the desire to keep communities integrated. "What people see is the beauty of where you're living," says Bob Clark, a local farmer who is economic development officer for the commission. "They don't see the problem of living in a

remote area." The county council agrees that the formula funding mechanism is insensitive to the needs of smaller, isolated schools, which cannot necessarily draw upon private industry for additional resources, and, as in Borrowdale, must rely on local people's generosity. An education department grant of £500,000 made in 1988 to help smaller schools in Cumbria has dried up, and the county council is planning to deduct at least £2 million from its education budget.

"It's going to get more and more difficult because of the needs of the national curriculum," said John Burnett, the council's chief executive. "The whole pace of change in education has gone too far."

Borrowdale's fight to save the valley school is typical of local action in Cumbria, where many communities are assisting financially troubled schools. But Mr Illman is anxious that Borrowdale's fundraising achievements should not be treated as a precedent for the semi-privatisation of small rural schools, a point he made to Michael Fallon when the junior education minister visited the school recently.

Heath draws the line at women whips

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

EDWARD Heath suggested to the Commons committee working on a reform of parliamentary hours that the number of MPs should be cut by one third.

The former prime minister, who has clocked up 41 years in the Commons and shows no sign of retiring, did not say which of his 649 colleagues he would dispense with.

When asked by Marion Roe, Conservative MP for Broxbourne, about the particular problems of women MPs, he sat silent before the committee for a minute. Then he replied that he had done his best for the "ladies in the House" during his time as party leader, prime minister and chief whip. After all, he had organised the selection of the first woman deputy Speaker. What about a woman

in the Tory whips' office, she persisted. Here Mr Heath tempered his enthusiasm: "It is very hard with the language. I think it is far more effective for a woman to woo a whip than to be in the whips' office."

Sir Freddy Warren, formerly the official in charge of the covert deals between the parties, once said, according to Mr Heath: "Whipping, like stripping, should be done in private."

A few hours before delivering his treatise in the Commons on the future of Europe, Mr Heath, MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup, examined the decline of the British parliament since he entered, in 1950. Once the House echoed to the oratory of great trade union leaders and the great captains of industry, he said. Parties co-operated to see through necessary reforms, oppositions brought such pressure to bear on occasion that the government of the day had to change its mind.

Now there was mass lobbying, select committees, guillotines, mounds of ill-prepared bills and hot, sticky and bad tempered MPs sitting into late July. "The mood of the House is purely camouflaged," he said. The committee has been toying with the idea of shorter speeches to cut the sitting hours. Mr Heath said an MP could not make an impact on the government in ten minutes.



Roe: raised the question of women as whips

Meacher acts on pensions

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership is considering banning companies from taking "contribution holidays" from their pension funds unless they have protected existing pensioners from inflation.

In a speech yesterday Michael Meacher, the shadow social security secretary, outlined Labour proposals to create a "level playing field" between private and occupational pensions.

A Labour survey last year of 20 of the largest employers in the country found that three quarters had a surplus in their pension fund, four fifths had taken a contribution holiday for themselves - nearly always without one for the employees - and yet one third were raising pension payments by less than inflation.

"Our view is that pensioners should have first call on any surplus in a scheme until their pensions are fully indexed," Mr Meacher told the autumn conference of the National Association of Pension Funds in London. Labour's goal was to index payments to retail prices.

Mr Meacher repeated Labour's pledges to end the 2 per cent inducement for people to opt out of the state earnings-related scheme and to require private pension providers to guarantee a minimum pension.

MoD will deduct tax at source

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SERVICEMEN living in barracks or married quarters will not be billed directly for the council tax by local councils, the government made clear yesterday. Payments will be made directly to local authorities by the Ministry of Defence and recouped from servicemen through accommodation charges.

The new system, a reversion to the one that used to apply under the rates, will end direct billing of servicemen for the poll tax, which had caused administrative difficulties for senior officers struggling to keep track of a constantly shifting population, and had led to many servicemen being summonsed to magistrates' courts.

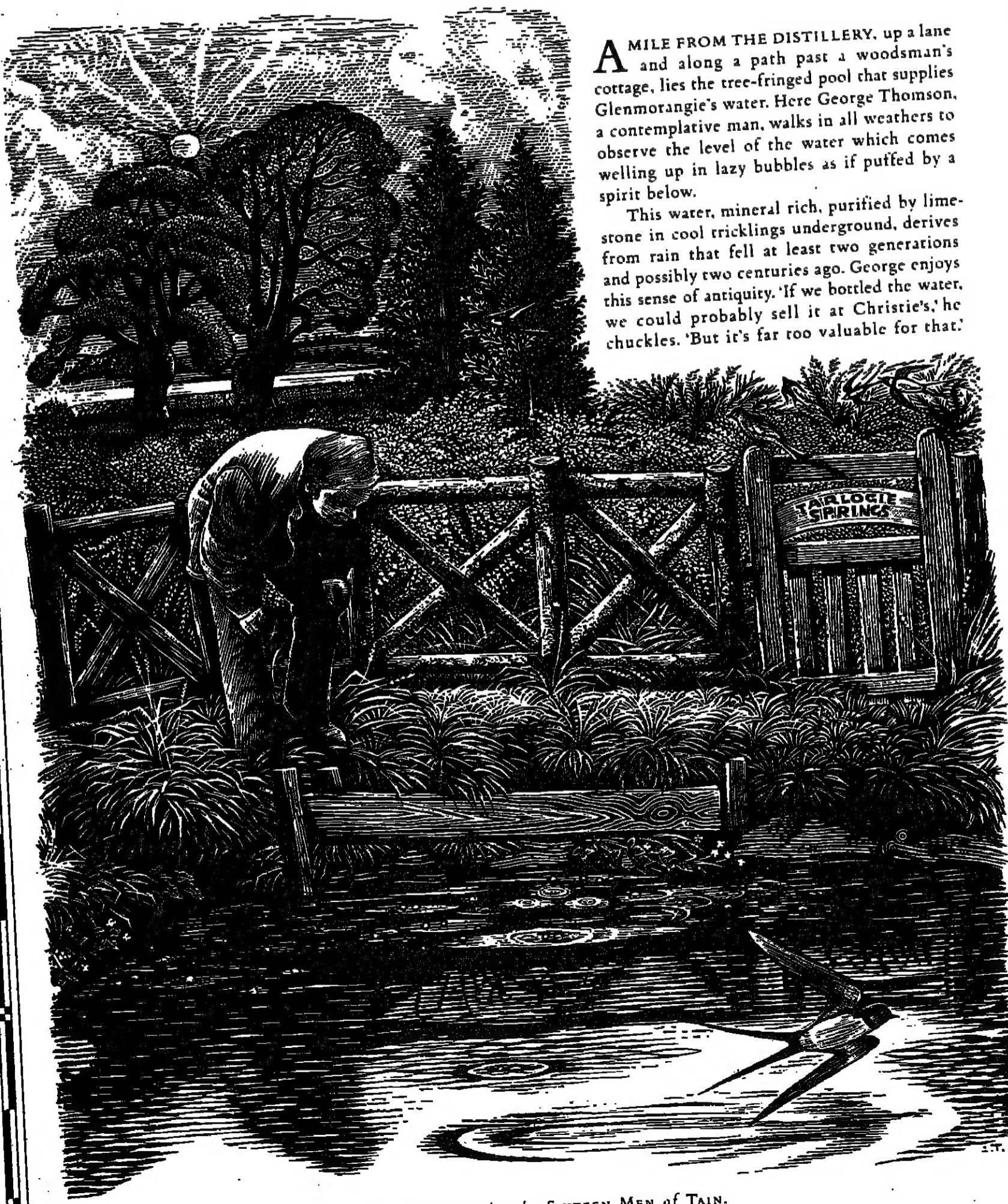
Robert Key, a junior environment minister, told the Commons committee scrutinising the council tax legislation that service personnel and their families were in a unique position. They had little or no say over where they lived, were posted often and usually paid uniform accommodation charges.

The change was welcomed by Keith Mans, Conservative MP for Wyre, who has campaigned for concessions for servicemen. "It's a huge step in the right direction," he said. "It's much simpler and it means the average squaddie is not going to receive a bill himself."

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SIR PETER USTINOV, BRITAIN'S BEST AFTER-DINNER SPEAKER... POLAND'S COMMERCIAL RAIDERS... SPECULATION ON THE CAVIARE MARKET

Toastmasters raise a glass to Ustinov

The cream of the crop of after-dinner speakers has finally been recognised, Joe Joseph writes

CONSIDERING that even Bob Monkhouse won the award a few years ago, why on earth did the Guild of Professional Toastmasters wait until yesterday to fete Sir Peter Ustinov as Britain's best after-dinner speaker for 1990?

Sir Peter is possibly the world's most natural raconteur. You can imagine him spilling out anecdotes to the lady at the local dry cleaner's and to bemused ticket collectors on the Paddington to Bristol train. On quiet days he probably buttonholes passers-by on the street, like one of those famous people in American Express commercials: you don't know me, but let me tell you an anecdote.

His skill lies in holding an audience without telling jokes. He does it so well that he is reputed to earn at least £15,000 each time he stands up in a tuxedo to the merriment of After Eight's. He meanders, changing voices, skipping from one country to another, bringing strangers to life. Accepting the award yesterday, he spoke of how he was once called to give a talk at short notice in Japan on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: not all that funny a subject, few boo-boom jokes, but a very funny speech. It looked sufficiently off-the-cuff to have been rehearsed diligently in private beforehand.

Bob Monkhouse, by contrast, signals to his audience that he has delivered another punchline by adopting a peculiar blank expression, as if he had just swallowed an eyeball. But perhaps, after a few large brandies, some people need to be told when the joke has been delivered. Monkhouse is very popular on the after-dinner circuit, commanding fees of about £7,000, according to toastmasters. He can, by request, be even blunter than Margaret Thatcher, who will nowadays break bread with anyone willing to pay between £15,000 and £20,000 to hear her views. Since these views are, by and large, the same ones she handed out free until last year, the diners who invite her are presumably either spendthrifts or people who have not read a newspaper for the past decade. Ted Heath, whose ideas have also weathered well under varnish, only gets

£10,000 to £15,000, which proves there is a limit to what even spendthrifts will listen to over and over again.

Mrs Thatcher is one of the few women to have broken into this largely male world. The cricketer Rachael Heyhoe Flint is also popular, although she does have an unusual selling point. At around £600 a speech, Edwina Currie is also for hire (providing there are no chips or unpasteurised eggs on the menu), although she ran into trouble in 1988 when a mob of drunk businessmen brought her close to after-dinner tears.

Mrs Currie's plight was a lesson for would-be speakers. One thing worse than having to watch other people speak with their mouths full is having to speak to other people while their mouths are full. The heckling can get fierce. Professionals come with a few put-downs in their pocket ("Not only the walls are plastered" apparently works).

Mild-mannered men, such as Frank Muir and Denis Norden, who do not attract much heckling from the audience (unless they hesitate, deviate or repeat themselves), are said to earn about £5,000 a go at the microphone. The better known sports stars pull in between £2,000 and £3,000. The ever-reliable Brian Johnston will tell tales from Lord's for £1,500 to £2,000.

Ivor Spencer, president of

the guild, and the man who presented yesterday's award to Sir Peter, says the key of a good speech is to have "a brilliant beginning, a brilliant ending and to keep them as close as possible". He has heard more than 40,000 speeches in his 38 years as a toastmaster, many of them stupefyingly dull. Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, himself a past winner of the guild's best after-dinner speaker award, called Mr Spencer a masochist.

It is because of the lack of brilliant speakers that the best are paid so well and, for foreign bookings, are flown around the world on Concorde and put up at the best hotels. Many do several speeches a week. If you cannot find, or cannot afford, the real thing for your company do, you can now hire the puppets used on *Spitting Image* to talk you through the port.

But toastmasters don't just about "pray silence" every so often and then bite their lips. Sometimes they bite back. David Tilt, from Worcester, is an ex-army officer who took up toastmastering in 1987. He barks at about 120 company dinners and barmy events a year. "But I also do a lot of speaking myself to ladies at lunches: groups like the Rotarians and the Women's Institute. I talk to them about the business of being a professional toastmaster."

Warsaw pirates plunder West's glitzy goodies

The West wants action over the Polish ignoring of copyright, writes Roger Boyes

ALISTAIR MacLean, the novelist, Whitney Houston, the pop singer and Cicciolina, the Italian pornopolitician, are among the many victims of pirate raids by Poland's budding capitalists.

The Jolly Roger was hoisted over Eastern Europe only a matter of months after the collapse of communist rule. Anti-communist underground activists who used to translate and publish subversive or merely entertaining texts without worrying too much about such niceties as copyright became overground entrepreneurs. The result has been a cultural revolution.

Copied videos, compact discs and computer programs are being snapped up at a fraction of Western prices. Foreign bestsellers are translated, printed and distributed by street-corner vendors within three months compared to five years under communism. Western authors and performers are beginning to realise that they are losing a substantial amount of money in the East as freebooters become rich at their expense. A year ago it would have seemed churl-



Cicciolina: victim of the cultural freebooters

ish to insist on royalty payments; now the West is pressing for action. Robert Mosbacher, the American commerce secretary, has gone so far as to warn Poland that it should not count on receiving American investment unless it cracks down on the cultural pirates. Knowing that any concert will be bootlegged and sold on the streets within a week, many performers are refusing to visit Poland, which controls the East European market for illegally copied compact discs. But Polish pirates also dominate the East's pornographic industry. Every year about 50,000 copied videos are smuggled

from Poland into the Soviet Union, where they are sold for huge sums on the black market.

But the fiercest battles are being fought on the book market. Gig, a private publisher specialising in popular literature, holds the right to all of Alistair MacLean's works in Poland. MacLean and such other writers as Frederick Forsyth, Robert Ludlum and Jackie Collins are big moneyspinners on the Polish market. But months before Gig was about to publish MacLean's book, *Circus*, a pirate company brought it out in a cheaper and glossier edition. Gig took the pirates to court. Most publishers, however, do not bother. For one thing, the pirates are difficult to find. If they can be brought to trial, the pirates resort to another useful feature of capitalism — they declare themselves bankrupt.

In the face of growing Western unrest, Poland is to strengthen its copyright laws. The period of protection for a literary work will be extended from 25 to 50 years, and stealing copyright will be punishable by up to two years in jail. But most Poles and, indeed, many lawyers, do not take the pirates too seriously, believing that they perform a reasonably useful function: providing Western culture at affordable prices.

Master of ceremonies: Sir Peter can amuse without telling jokes, and earns about £15,000 for each speech

Voice of 'Strine' drowned by tones of plummy Poms

Robert Cockburn looks at the middle class which has turned Australia upside down

DURING a party in the exclusive Sydney suburb of Double Bay, a friend revealed she is taking elocution lessons to get rid of her Aussie accent. A new snobbery is sweeping Australia.

Along with self-conscious dislike of "Strine" goes a professed love of English literature. Evelyn Waugh and Wodehouse (invariably pronounced "Woodhouse") take precedence over local authors such as Patrick White and Thomas Keneally. Even snobbish Australians still sneer at Poms and love to beat them at cricket. But they can no longer do without the finer points of Pommie culture: *The Economist*, *Private Eye*, *The Spectator*. There is even a pizza

joint in the gentrified end of tough Darlinghurst that provides *Country Life* to read while you wait for fast food.

Australia, the workers' paradise, is being replaced by the world of Wodehouse, or what sociologists identify as "the new middle class" of Australia. "There is a growing middle class," Professor John Western of Queensland University said yesterday. Australians are more class-conscious now. But they are also more aware of other divisions such as gender and ethnicity. The professor, an expert on class in contemporary Australia, says: "The image of Australia as a workers' paradise never existed in reality. The image of social equality is a myth."

With Australia going through the worst recession since the 1930s, there is a shrinking number of

working class jobs in any case. Almost ten per cent of the workforce are without a job. The end of many traditional, manual and semi-skilled jobs, has given way to high technology occupations, breeding an Australian yuppie.

This is why the language is changing. "Strine" is disappearing. The hard Australian "A", as in Paul Hogan's "C'Day", has been replaced by a soft "nah" sound. ABC newscasters speak of eating "pahstab" and paintings by "Picabso". Part of the reason for change, says Professor Ken Johnston of Sydney's Macquarie University, is that Australia has one of the highest levels of private education in the world.

The Labor party is adapting. The leader of the New South Wales Labor party, Bob Carr, has dared to shun the pubs and rugby league circuit, taking his recreation instead in a private supper club.

Bread? Let them eat caviare

Gourmets fear for the future of one of Russia's less basic exports, reports Robin Young

WHILE Russians worry where their next loaf is coming from, people in the West have been getting excited about the effect that upheavals in the erstwhile Soviet Union might have on their supplies of caviare. "Caviare could become as common as fish eggs," suggested *The Wall Street Journal* this week, claiming that as much as 1,850 tonnes of Russian caviare a year might now be released westwards in a desperate

search for hard currency. That, say caviare dealers in Britain, is a foolishly over-optimistic assumption. They claim the Americans have wildly overestimated the Russian catch and that any extra caviare that finds its way out will not be any good.

John Stas, director and general manager of W.G. White, the subsidiary of Associated Fisheries that is the official agent for Soviet caviare in the United Kingdom, says: "Lots of people are going to burn their fingers on this. Certainly there is going to be a vastly increased amount of black market caviare about, but people who see it as a quick

way of making money will find that they cannot sell it because the product lacks all integrity. It has to be carefully transported and stored."

Peter Rebeiz of the Swiss company Caviar House says four-fifths of his supplies come from Iran. "The Russians net their fish in the rivers, which damages the roes. Then they have no refrigerated lorries, and only in Moscow have they any idea how to package, preserve and sell the product. We are still buying from Moscow, but it seems a miracle to me that any gets there at all."

Leading article, page 19

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Israeli Labour party papers over splits

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN TEL AVIV

ISRAEL'S Labour party yesterday dropped its long-standing opposition to contacts with the banned Palestine Liberation Organisation when it presented its platform for next year's general election at the final session of a fraught three-day convention.

The move, which is seen as a gesture to the "dovish" members of the main opposition party who had earlier threatened to defect, succeeded in patching over deep ideological rifts within Labour's ranks. The party's manifesto also calls for a one-year freeze on the construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and for territorial compromise with the Palestinians and Israel's Arab neighbours.

However, hardliners in the party, the so-called "hawks", also claimed a victory when delegates rejected the concept of Palestinian statehood.

Shimon Peres, the leader of the party, yesterday hailed the result as a victory for compromise and told the 2,300 delegates that Labour could reverse its current faltering fortunes and win the general election.

"Rather than competing over who has the largest wingspan, we should work together on getting into government," said Mr Peres, whose party currently trails the ruling Likud party by 15 percentage points in the latest polls. However, his optimism failed to address the widely perceived problem of Labour's identity crisis which has plagued the party for more than a decade. In particular, the fudged result on security did not bridge the growing divisions between the young, reformist movement in the



Peres: failed to deal with party's identity crisis

party and the majority old-style socialists who continue to control the party apparatus through the Histadrut trade union congress.

The Labour party dominated the Jewish state's political world from the founding of Israel in 1948 until its defeat in the election of 1977. Although it was victorious in four wars against the Arabs, over the last 14 years it has lost its ideological direction and increasingly resembles the anachronistic socialist institutions of Eastern Europe.

"If Labour does not change, it is committing suicide," said Haim Ramon, the youthful leader of the reformist faction in the party, in a speech to the convention on Wednesday. "The writing is on the wall, even if you shut your eyes. It says that if we continue in this manner we will have no choice but to become a satellite of Likud." Mr Ramon has accused the leadership of failing to offer a credible alternative to the ideologically unshakable Likud party, and advocates turning Labour into a modern social democratic party similar to those in Western Europe.



Exile ends: Son Sann, the former right-wing prime minister, in Phnom Penh yesterday after 16 years

Crime and big business both pay well in Japan

Joanna Pitman and David Watts trace the web linking Japan's big business to the even bigger crime syndicates

FURTHER evidence suggesting that Japan's financial institutions are operating hand in glove with the nation's underworld Yakuza gangsters emerged yesterday in a survey by the *Asahi* newspaper.

It showed that 17 financial institutions and four business firms provided loans and debt repayment guarantees worth two billion yen (some £8 million) to Yakuza groups under the direct command of the Yamaguchi Gumi, Japan's biggest crime syndicate. Gangster-owned buildings and plots of land were offered as collateral for the loans, according to the report.

The lenders, which include regional banks, credit unions and financial institutions such as leasing companies, claimed they had no idea of the underworld affiliations of their customers when they extended the loans. Strapped for lending business of any kind in the current economic slowdown, most have refused to cancel their loans. There are no laws in Japan that prohibit business deals with gangsters.

Despite his traditional image as a tightly permed, tattooed and fingerless hoodlum, today's financially savvy

Yakuza is beginning to adopt a more sartorial appearance. Mobsters who want to get on these days wear pinstripe suits with their gangster affiliation pin in the lapel, and carry business cards just like any other selected man.

But unlike other salaried men, the owner of a card marked with the Yamaguchi Gumi logo is likely to be rich. The Yakuza are now Japan's top corporate earners, netting profits last year of some £5.56 billion, more than eight times those of second-ranking Toyota Motor.

Much of their earnings still come from such illegal activities as gun-running, international drug dealing, prostitution and gambling. But the lure of easy money in Japan's over-valued financial and real estate markets during the "bubble economy" of the late 1980s has attracted hordes of ambitious gangsters, more interested in swap portfolios and the most lucrative margin business than in the number of severed finger trophies in their collection.

Unhappily, with these links between gangsters and the big financial houses manifested itself on the streets of

Tokyo yesterday when hundreds of Japanese finance industry employees walked off the job to protest against them and to demand higher bonuses and shorter working hours. 1991 has been the year of the pinstripe Yakuza. Six months ago the presidents of Nomura Securities and Nikko Securities, two of Japan's top stockbroking firms, were forced to resign after it emerged that their affiliates had each lent two billion yen to Susumu Ishii, boss of the Inagawa Kai, Tokyo's largest mob. Like the survey, both presidents bowed out claiming they never knew they were dealing with gangsters.

Shady links with the underworld also hang over the prestigious Sumitomo group after revelations that its blue chip, Osaka-based trading company, Itohan, had appointed Susumu Ito as managing director. Mr Ito's close links with the Yakuza, which were well known in Osaka, brought shame to the group and forced its parent company, Sumitomo Bank, to come to its aid with a one trillion yen bail-out.

The degree to which Yakuza influence has spread through financial and real estate businesses can only be guessed at. According to one analyst, "every real estate company in Japan employs Yakuza, mostly at arm's length. The Yakuza strong-arm tactics are the only way they can persuade tenants to vacate buildings that obstruct major development sites."

East Timor killings put Canberra on the spot

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

GARETH Evans, the Australian foreign minister, once described his country as having the role of the world's "good international citizen", protecting human rights and the environment.

This week, in the aftermath of the Indonesian army killings in occupied East Timor, such claims have boomeranged on the Labor government. Its lone recognition of Indonesia's annexation of East Timor has damaged its image on human rights.

"The Dili massacre is East Timor's Sharpeville," said Keith Suter, a specialist in international law at Sydney University, yesterday. The government's ambivalence towards human rights is a source of growing anger at home, and protesters want tough action against Indonesia.

The killings in Dili also expose the gulf between Australia's image abroad and

the blind eye it turns to violations closer to home. Australia is on trial in the International Court in The Hague over two issues it purports to champion - human rights and the environment.

Portugal, after years of inactivity, is taking a stand against Indonesia's occupation of its former colony, East Timor. The spur has been the world's "response" to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Portugal has also criticised Australia for negotiating with Indonesia. Ever since Gough Whitlam, the former Labor prime minister, accepted Indonesia's annexation of East Timor in 1976, successive governments have followed suit. Since 1975, as many as about 200,000 East Timorese are estimated to have died out of a population of 600,000.

Leading article, page 19

Hollywood bows to Tokyo's ways

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

THE eve of the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor was not the ideal occasion for America to hear about a baseball player begging forgiveness for showing disrespect towards the Japanese.

The incident, which has sparked indignation in bars and on sports radio stations this week, comes from *Mr Baseball*, a film starring Tom Selleck as a genial player who joins a Japanese team after being sacked by the New York Yankees. A Hollywood film which shows a hero of America's sacred sport deferring to Japanese prowess would be bad enough, but what is

new owners will keep their promise to stay out of the creative side of Hollywood.

In its original plot, the film was a comedy about the struggles of Jack, played by Selleck, in the face of the alien baseball culture of Japan, with its un-American submission of the individual to group harmony, face-saving and brutal physical training. Since Matsushita bought MCA, the parent company of Universal, the plot has become a tale of how Jack learns to respect the Japanese way. "I have been disrespectful to you in words and behaviour," Jack tells the manager. According to press accounts, the makers also dropped jokes about the second world war and changed Jack's lover from an independent-minded woman to a traditional type who teaches him Japanese wisdom.



touching the rawest nerves is a suspicion that American film-makers have succumbed to Japanese censorship.

Mr Baseball is the first big-budget film set in Japan to have been made by one of the studios taken over in the recent Hollywood shopping spree by Japanese companies. Although Universal Pictures, owned by Matsushita Electric, denies any censorship, the film is being seen as a lesson for those who believe that the Japa-

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White House backs down on race issue

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

A DIVIDED, panicky White House yesterday beat a hurried retreat from politically explosive plans to order the elimination of government regulations authorising preferential employment practices for women and minorities.

News of the imminent directive, pushed by White House conservatives, leaked out on Wednesday night. It immediately provoked uproar among civil rights groups who accused President Bush of adopting the racial agenda of David Duke, the former Ku Klux Klansman who, although he lost the gubernatorial elections, achieved much success in Louisiana by exploiting white, working-class resentment of affirmative action programmes.

Early yesterday Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, announced that an "early draft" was being "widely misinterpreted" and that "the whole thing was being rewritten". The directive was supposed to be the administration's interpretation of a new civil rights law, to be signed by Mr Bush. Congress intended that law to overturn 1989 Supreme Court rulings making it harder to prove discrimination in the workplace.

The debate was the latest in a series of actions, including cancellation of Mr Bush's South East Asia trip and this week's hesitation on credit card interest rates, that have betrayed disarray as the president's approval rating has slumped. Behind the bungles lie electoral considerations and a split between conservative and moderate Republicans on the explosive issue of racial quotas.

To address America's domestic problems and eager to distance himself from Mr Duke, Mr Bush suddenly backed down. He had long opposed the congressional civil rights legislation, persistently labelling it a "quotas

bill" despite strenuous Democratic efforts to ensure it was not. Last month he announced that a compromise had been found.

Conservatives were furious. Mr Duke's showing in the governor's race and plans by Patrick Buchanan, the conservative columnist, to challenge him for the Republican presidential nomination increased pressure on Mr Bush to move to the right. The leaked directive was then drawn up. Mr Fitzwater denied Mr Bush had approved it.

The directive ordered all government agencies to review their equal employment rules, saying that "any regulation, rule, enforcement practice or other aspect of these programmes that mandates, encourages or otherwise involves the use of quotas, preferences, set-asides or other similar devices on the basis of race, colour, religion, sex or national origin is to be terminated as soon as is legally feasible". On Wednesday night Ralph Nease, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, said the White House was "declaring open war on civil rights".

He accused Mr Bush of surrendering to people like Mr Duke and Jesse Helms, the right-wing senator from North Carolina who has also exploited the quota issue. The White House was accused of seeking to thwart a congressional civil rights bill that it had been unable to stop. "How dumb do they think we are?" exclaimed Pat Schroeder, a Democratic congresswoman.

Acknowledging that alarm bells had sounded, Mr Fitzwater said the new statement would praise the accompanying civil rights bill, affirm Mr Bush's commitment to implementing it and restate his conviction that affirmative action was useful in guaranteeing opportunity.

American forces to remain in Korea

London — America has postponed the withdrawal of its troops from South Korea because of North Korea's suspected development of nuclear weapons (David Watts writes). Making the announcement, Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, called a nuclear-armed North Korea "the most serious threat to peace and stability... in East Asia".

He added: "In view of the dangers of nuclear proliferation in North Korea and the destabilising impact on northeast Asia... it would be unwise to proceed with major reductions in this area now."

Japan revealed yesterday that North Korea has replaced the Soviet Union as the main threat to Japan.

Aids damages

Victoria — A court in British Columbia awarded more than one million Canadian dollars (£490,000) to a woman infected with Aids from artificial insemination. The jury ruled that Dr Gerald Korn, a Vancouver gynaecologist, had been negligent in trying to impregnate Kobe ter Neuzen, a nurse, in 1985. (Reuters)

Change of heart

Taipei — A Chinese hijacker who was granted asylum by Taiwan in 1984 has said he is unhappy with his treatment and will return to China next year. Zhuo Changren, who received a reward of about \$115,000 (£64,000) when he defected, said the government had "failed to take good care of me". (Reuters)

Sudan airlift

Addis Ababa — The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees completed its biggest refugee airlift by returning the last of 50,000 Ethiopian soldiers from Sudan. The troops had taken refuge in Sudan after the regime of President Mengistu, their leader, collapsed in May. (AFP)

Libyan request

Tunis — Libya has asked for an emergency meeting of the Arab League to discuss accusations that it is responsible for the bombing of the Pan Am jet over Lockerbie in 1988, in which 270 people died, diplomatic sources said. (Reuters)

Pretoria talks open before Christmas

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

TWO YEARS after President de Klerk announced his intention to dismantle apartheid, South Africa's political leaders will assemble next month to decide what should replace it. The first round of formal negotiations on a new constitution will take place on December 20-21, it was announced yesterday. A preparatory meeting, expected to involve more than 20 parties, will be held on November 29.

The government, the African National Congress, and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom party said certain aspects still had to be agreed, notably venues. The smaller, more radical Pan Africanist Congress said it would attend the talks if they were held outside South Africa and under a neutral chairman from the Organisation of African Unity, the United Nations, or the Commonwealth.

The problems of drafting a non-racial constitution for this fractious society have been illustrated by bickering over who should organise the preliminary meeting. Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the



Buthelezi: seeks to divide the electorate three ways

Inkatha leader, irritated by ANC suggestions that he align his party with the government, declared last week: "If we do not have a genuine three-way division of interests, and if there is not a three-way division of the electorate, there will be no real democracy." Another outstanding issue is what to call the constitutional conference.

The first tasks of the delegations will be to decide on a forum for drafting a constitution, and on who should govern the country in the interim. Tough negotiations are expected on both issues.



Desert profit: camels gather on the sand dunes outside the small town of Pushkar in Rajasthan, western India, for the start of this week's camel fair. More than 15,000 will be bought and sold during the annual festival, which is being attended this year by 400,000 merchants and tourists

KGB saw Oswald as US spy

FROM REUTERS IN NEW YORK

THE KGB suspected Lee Harvey Oswald was an American spy when he defected to the Soviet Union and later top officials concluded he was incapable of acting alone to kill President Kennedy, according to ABC News.

This runs counter to the findings of the Warren Commission, which reported that Oswald had acted alone. The network obtained access to Oswald's Soviet secret police files and plans to broadcast its report in a one-hour programme tonight.

Tom Bettag, the programme's executive producer, said a reporter and a translator were allowed to read some of the files on Oswald in a locked room at KGB headquarters, but permission was withdrawn in mid-October. He said the files showed Oswald was suspected of being a spy when he defected to the Soviet Union in 1959. The KGB kept him under constant observation for the 2½ years he lived there. After the murder, some top KGB officials concluded that, based on his personality, Oswald was incapable of killing Kennedy alone.

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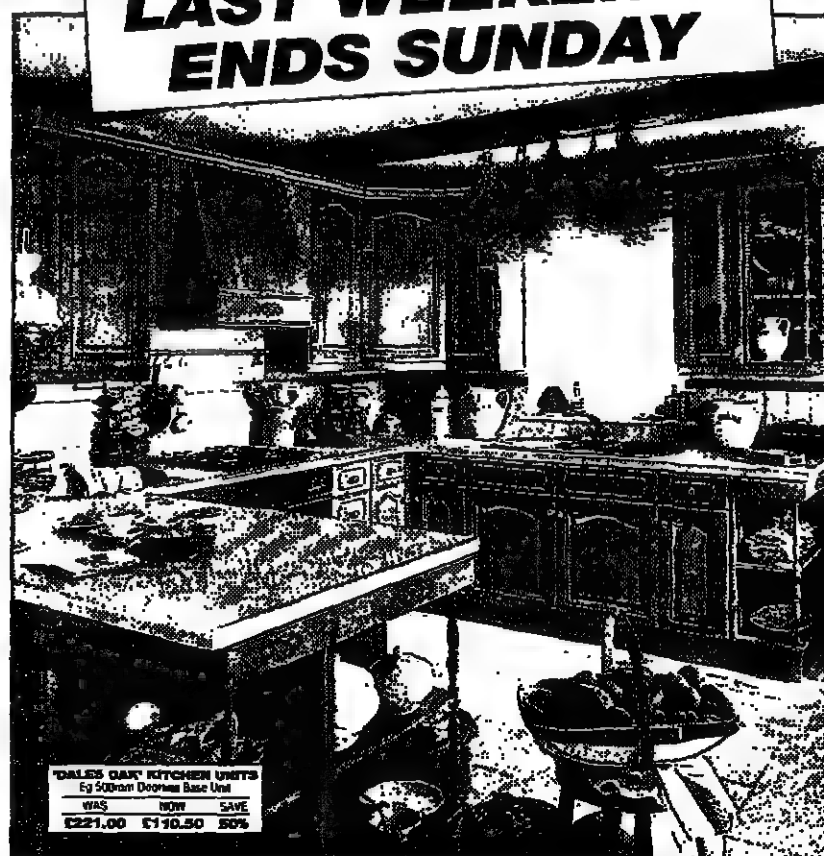
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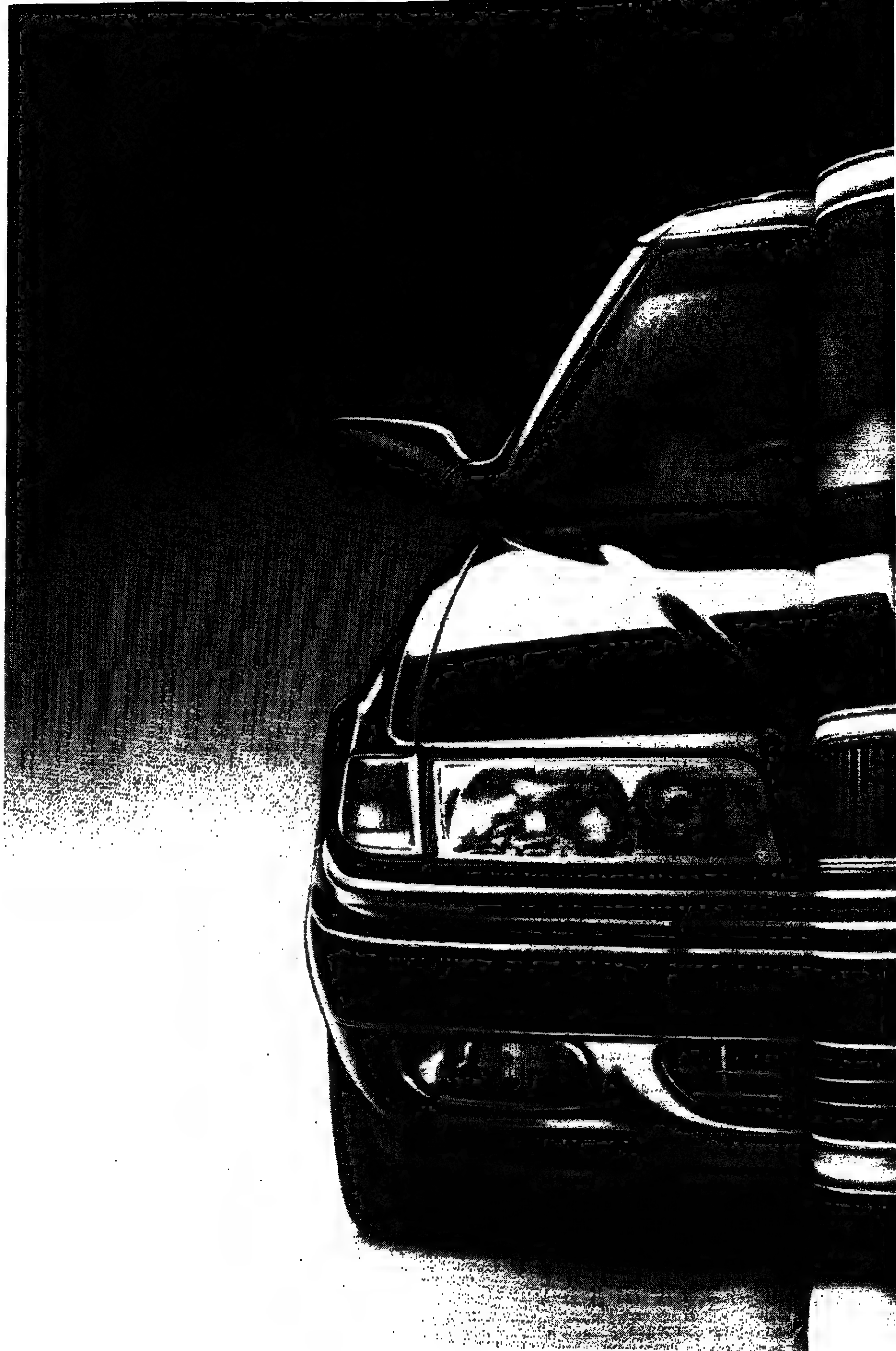
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Yeltsin gets guarded welcome as he signs accord with Germany

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND IAN MURRAY IN BONN

BORIS Yeltsin yesterday set about establishing Russia on the world map as an independent country. Surrounded with almost all the trappings of a state visit, he signed a joint declaration which for the first time put relations between Russia and a Western power on a legal basis.

The diplomatic difficulties of treating with a country as yet without international recognition were clearly visible from the moment of his reception at the airport to the evening dinner. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, looked awkward throughout the signing ceremony and was careful in both his formal speeches not to raise too high Russia's hopes of early recognition.

However, the declaration signed by the two leaders promised economic co-operation, regular high-level consultations — including on world affairs — and confirma-

tion that the traditional homeland of ethnic Germans would be re-created on the banks of the Volga.

Mr Yeltsin repeatedly tried to equate his "new Russia" with what he called the "new Germany". After signing the declaration, he said this meant "the development of wide-ranging relations between the sovereign democratic Russia and the united Germany". In contrast, Herr Kohl seemed to play down the importance of national sovereignty, preferring his long-held belief in the creation of a federal Europe. "The idea of the federal state stands as godfather to the decisive steps which we want to take this year with our European partners on political union," he said during the working dinner.

Mr Yeltsin himself confirmed and even exploited the ambiguity of Russia's status in dealing with the contentious question of whether Erich

Honecker could or should be extradited to stand trial in Germany. The chancellor had raised the matter during their three hours of private talks, emphasising that Germany would continue to insist on the return of the disgraced East German leader on charges of issuing the shoot-to-kill orders by which 200 people died while trying to escape to the West. "The federal republic will insist that legal and judicial procedures are observed," he said, adding he would leave it to his guest to state Russia's position.

Mr Yeltsin made the most of the opportunity to show how, in his view, President Gorbachev was obstructing justice by refusing to hand back the man Russia maintains entered the country illegally last March when he was spirited to Moscow from a Soviet army hospital in eastern Germany. "I have not handled the problem," he said. "I regard it as the prerogative of President Gorbachev."

He added: "I have taken enough of his powers already. I don't want to take this from him as well." He said he had spoken to the Soviet president several times on the subject, and each time he was told Herr Honecker was too old and ill to stand trial.

It is not as though he would be sent back to a barbaric country. Nobody here is going to eat him. Russia has done what it can. He will not be allowed to stay in Russia. It is now up to Gorbachev. Herr Honecker could be expelled to another Soviet republic, such as Kazakhstan, and then be shut out to Uzbekistan. "It could become a grand tour of the republics."

Mr Yeltsin said in interviews with German television before he arrived that he had not come to plead for help, despite the "desperate situation" in his country. The chancellor took him at his word. He promised that "Germany would, as in the past, help those who help themselves". Germany was ready to be in the forefront of an international effort to provide food and humanitarian aid but "we cannot do it alone; our Western partners must also be ready to take their responsibility in this".



Faith in the city: a man carries a damaged crucifix he took to Rome for a papal blessing into Zagreb's cathedral

Truth caught in the crossfire

Croats and Serbs are now fighting a vicious propaganda war, write Anne McElvoy and Dessa Trevisan

AS THE fallen town of Vukovar gradually disgorges the appalling secrets of what occurred during the three-month siege within its walls, fresh propaganda assaults have begun on both sides.

In an all too familiar pattern, Croatia and Serbia are claiming that the other side perpetrated mass killings inside the town. Allegations of wholesale slaughter are traded like caustic insults. The truth is caught in the crossfire.

The heavy-handed approach of the army, still intoxicated by its victory, and the chaotic dispersal of Croatian fighters and civilians which followed the defeat, makes verifications impossible. Out of the fog and rubble of Vukovar have emerged spectres of bloody rumours inadequately supported by fact.

The accusations began when Goran Mikic, a Serb and freelance photographer, working for Reuters news

agency claimed that he had seen the bodies of 41 children apparently killed with axes in Borovo Naselje, a suburb of Vukovar used as a base by the Croatian national guard.

Mr Mikic claimed that the army told him that the fleeing guardsmen had cut the throats of children. Yesterday he announced on Belgrade television that he had seen "small corpses packed into nylon bags filled with blood".

The Serbian media have been quick to pin the blame on Croatia in language calculated to remind people of the slaughter carried out by Croatian Ustashi troops in the second world war.

Belgrade television in its main news programme on Wednesday, which is

watched by millions of Serbs, made the point of saying that the story was first reported by Reuters to give it credibility. Yesterday most Belgradians were convinced of the slaughter.

But there are still no independent witnesses and there has been a strange reserve on the army's part. Mr Mikic claims the federal forces refused him permission to take pictures of the bodies and the area is still sealed off.

In a war where both sides have shown off their victims with unseemly enthusiasm, this reluctance is hard to understand and has led to whispers on the Croatian side that the victims may be there.

The government in Zagreb has dismissed the allegations

as "pure propaganda", and maintains that the story was concocted in Belgrade to sway yesterday's United States Senate's debate on recognition for Croatia.

That the battle for Vukovar produced atrocities on both sides is beyond question. However, it will be as hard to pinpoint the iniquities of eastern Croatia in 1991, as it was to find accurate figures for the killings that took place in Bosnia-Herzegovina between 1941 and 1945.

Already the statistics of the war have begun to blur. Visiting Bonn yesterday, a Yugoslav official claimed that it had already cost 10,000 lives, but with all federal structures shattered, there is no reliable way of getting at the truth. EC monitors called in to investigate an alleged slaughter of Serbs at Dabovar last month concluded this week that the victims were more likely to have been Croats.

Refugees drowned in Haiti ship

Havana — Sixteen people were drowned and another 119 were missing and feared dead after the wreck of a sailing boat carrying about 200 Haitian refugees off Cuba's eastern tip, the Cuban domestic news agency reported yesterday.

The agency said 60 people survived the shipwreck on Tuesday night when the vessel in which they were travelling went down in heavy seas off Maisi Point, Guantanamo province. They were receiving food and medical treatment at a camp set up by the local authorities in the area.

Cuban rescue services were continuing to search for the 119 people officially listed as missing although they were presumed to have drowned, the agency added. The 16 bodies recovered were those of 12 women, two children and two men. (Reuters)

UN crime body

Versailles — Representatives from more than 100 countries have met to launch a new United Nations body to tackle organised crime. The UN is hoping that its Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will defeat drug traffickers and international terrorists. (Reuters)

Judges to strike

Rome — Italy's 7,000 magistrates have called a one-day strike for December 3. They say that the president, Francesco Cossiga, is interfering with their independence by threatening to dissolve the Superior Magistrates' Council (CSM) in a row over magistrates' membership of Masonic lodges. (Reuters)

Havel supported

Prague — About 40,000 people re-enacted the moving scenes of the Czechoslovak revolution by almost filling Wenceslas Square in support of President Havel. Mr Havel has called for pressure on parliament to break the deadlock preventing a referendum on Slovak secession before next year's general election.

Republican tour

Moscow — Eduard Shevardnadze, the reappointed foreign minister, will tour the Soviet republics in an attempt to normalise the situation and will undertake no foreign trips. He thought that "everybody's place is on the barricades to save the country, freedom and democracy", a spokesman said. (AFP)

Husak funeral

Prague — Gustav Husak, Czechoslovakia's former president and hardline Communist party leader, was cremated in the Slovak capital of Bratislava, his home town. Mourners included Jan Cernogursky, the Slovak prime minister, and Frantisek Miklosko, chairman of the regional parliament. (Reuters)

Rights pledged

Bucharest — Romania's parliament has adopted a constitution guaranteeing pluralism, human rights and a free market. It defines Romania as a republic with a government effectively subordinated to the president, who is elected for a maximum of two four-year terms, and an elected two-chamber legislature. (Reuters)

Ganges deaths

Delhi — At least four people were killed and 29 injured in a stampede when about half a million Hindus gathered for a ritual dip in the Ganges, near the northern Indian city of Haridwar. (AFP)

Poison threat

Amsterdam — A man who threatened to contaminate bottles of Coca-Cola with a rust inhibitor unless he was paid a ransom in gold has been sentenced to five years' jail. Stephen John Duckworth, aged 33, pleaded guilty to demanding with menaces 140oz of gold. (AFP)

G7 deal puts off day of reckoning on Soviet debt

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE threat of a massive default by the Soviet monetary authorities was narrowly averted yesterday after the Group of Seven most industrialised nations agreed to the postponement of billions of dollars worth of debt repayments falling due next year.

In return, the G7 extracted firmer commitments than before from eight of the 12 remaining republics to honour the Soviet Union's debts and to manage their economies in accordance with International Monetary Fund advice. A controversial deal under which the Soviet Union would pawn nearly half its remaining gold reserves in return for a \$1 billion (£550 million) emergency credit was mentioned only as a possibility in a final communiqué issued after four days of tense negotiations.

However, the G7 representatives did pledge to maintain the flow of short-term credit, without which Soviet external trade would have been in danger of grinding to a halt. David Mulford, the American treasury under-secretary, said the agreement amounted to "important progress" in warding off the "extremely grave liquidity situation" faced by Soviet monetary authorities as the country's political and economic structures disintegrated.

Any optimism generated by the deal was balanced by the grave warnings issued by President Gorbachev who visited Irkutsk in Siberia. He said no economic measures taken by the republics would work unless they came together in a new political union, the basis of which is expected to be signed on Monday. The possibility of a Yugoslav-style civil war was a "real threat in the event of definitive disintegration".

Yesterday's accord provides for the deferment till 1993 of \$3.5 billion in medium and long-term debt repayments that G7 governments had been due to receive next year. If commercial banks and other Western governments follow suite, then the total amount of repayments affected could be closer to \$6 billion.

G7 officials emphasised that the agreement did not amount to a rescheduling, in that it affected principle

repayments rather than interest. They said the postponement was conditional on non-deferred sums being paid as normal. The most important absentee from the pledge on joint debt servicing was the Ukraine, which along with Azerbaijan says it wants to know what its share of the Soviet debt servicing burden will be before making a commitment. Uzbekistan and Georgia are also staying out for the time being.

Mr Mulford gave a warning that any republic that turned its back completely on its obligations would face an "extremely bleak future" in international financial markets. However, he emphasised that no republic had definitely done this, and that the memorandum on debt servicing remained open for signature.

Ivan Silayev, the head of the interim Soviet government, voiced confidence that the Ukrainians would join the arrangement by the end of the month — the date by which eight signatories to yesterday's deal have pledged work out each republic's share.

Madrid worries about unity bill

FROM HARRY DEBELIUS IN MADRID

THE debate in Spain about European unity is not about how far to go, but how much it will cost.

Less than 15 years after decades of isolation under General Franco, not a single member of parliament has expressed concern about any loss of sovereignty which might result from the European Community summit in Maastricht next month. At the same time both the conservative parliamentary opposition and the socialist-led administration are worried about keeping Spain a net beneficiary of the EC.

The principal opposition, the Popular Party (PP), called on Felipe Gonzalez, the prime minister, last week to explain his position in parliament and seek a consensus before Maastricht. At issue was not any objection to the proposed steps towards political, economic, monetary and social unity in the EC. "The PP is very concerned about the possibility that we Spaniards might have to share in the financing of Europe's most developed countries," it said. The word federalism has not raised an eyebrow here, al-

though the word waves a red flag in front of many Spaniards when mentioned as a way to unify the country's many distinct regions.

Spain's political leaders want the EC to accept the principle of "social cohesion", which would require the richer countries to contribute more than a proportional share to common funds, giving the poorer countries more to speed up their development. Without that, and a modification of article 200 of the Treaty of Rome, Spain will almost certainly find itself funding northern Europe's prosperity.

Spanish negotiators feel that the present system is unfair since it bases the contribution of member states on the amount of value added tax collected. They believe that this gives a distorted picture of Spain's wealth as consumption is unusually high at the moment. The prime minister's opponents believe the same as he does: full European unity.

Peter Riddell, page 18
Diary, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Le Pen unmoved by 'apartheid' uproar

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

JEAN-MARIE Le Pen, leader of France's extreme right-wing National Front, remains quite undaunted by the uproar provoked in the country's mainstream political establishment by his party's unambiguously racist manifesto.

The venomous criticism of the front's 50-point agenda for controlling Third World immigration is quite unjustified, he complains. "Everything we have proposed will be subject to debate... and no racial element is involved."

M Le Pen's confident, even cocky, mood these days is highlighted by the fact that he was prepared to gamble on French reactions to the release of a document advocating legal constraints that critics maintain would

create something very like apartheid in France. Clearly believing that even bad publicity is better than none, he appears to be banking on the effect the National Front's proposals for stringent measures against "non-Europeans" coming into the country will have on the growing number of voters who tell pollsters that they agree with his objectives.

As Bruno Megret, the National Front's ideologue, observed after unveiling the plan in Marseilles this week, politicians who begin by exhorting the party end up borrowing its racial rhetoric. A few years ago it would have been political suicide for Jacques Chirac, the head of the Gaullist RPR party, and a former prime minister, to talk of "noisy, smelly" immigrants living on social welfare, or for Valéry Giscard d'Es-

taing, the former president who leads the UDF opposition faction, to raise the issue of an alien "invasion" of France.

At the heart of the National Front's new manifesto are measures that would oblige every Third World national visiting France to deposit a bond of 100,000 francs (about £10,000) and submit to an Aids test. Those getting through would find a France that would deny immigrants certain welfare benefits and would formally discriminate against them on jobs, housing and education. The most recent opinion poll found 38 per cent support for M Le Pen's stance on immigration.

For all the furious reception this platform has attracted, M Le Pen has already succeeded in manoeuvring the French left into a distinctly

awkward position. Earlier this month, bawling the apparent indifference of voters to the political process, President Mitterrand was calling for reforms to introduce an element of proportional representation into elections for the second time in five years.

Although it is considered impolite to remind the Elysée Palace of the fact, it was M Mitterrand's fiddling with the system five years ago, in an attempt to split the conservative vote, that effectively put the front into the national assembly. The subsequent hasty reversion to majority voting merely spotlighted how cynical and short-sighted this move had been.

And, as M Le Pen has gleefully acknowledged, any return to proportional representation can only benefit his party, which currently has only one deputy in the assembly.



Le Pen: bad publicity is better than none



Party banner: Heide Schmidt announces her decision to run for the Austrian presidency at a press conference in Vienna yesterday. The far-right Freedom party nominated Frau Schmidt, the deputy parliamentary vice-president, as its candidate to replace Kurt Waldheim in elections next April (Brenda Fowler writes). Dr Waldheim has said he will not seek a second term. Frau Schmidt, aged 42, is the third candidate for the largely ceremonial office of president.

Last week the Social Democratic party of Franz Vranitzky nominated Rudolf Streicher, the transport minister, as its candidate, and the Conservative

People's party nominated Thomas Klestil, the head of the diplomatic corps and a former ambassador to Washington.

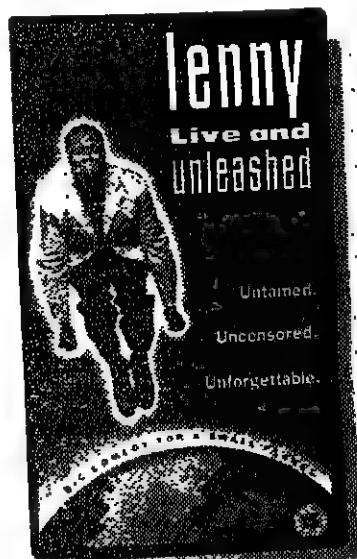
The decision by the Freedom party to put up its own candidate instead of supporting one of those of Austria's two main parties is due in part to its string of large gains in recent provincial elections. Yesterday Frau Schmidt said her campaign would be her own, and not that of her party.

Frau Schmidt distanced herself from Jean-Marie Le Pen, the extreme right-wing leader of France's National Front, who in an interview earlier this week said he would like to meet Freedom party politicians.

A comedy video from Smith's will bring tears to their eyes.



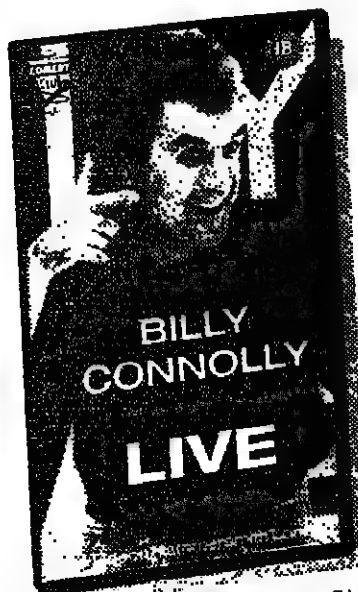
Tommy Cooper - Just Like That (Cert. PG) £10.99



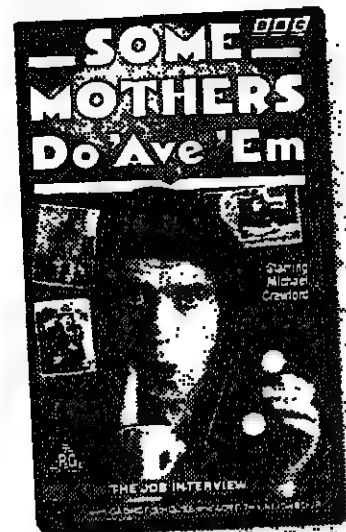
Lenny Henry - Live and Unleashed (Cert. 15) £10.99



Classic Comedy of the 60's (70's & 80's also available) (Cert. PG) £10.99



Billy Connolly Live (Cert. 18) £12.99



Some Mothers do 'ave 'em (Cert. PG) £10.99



Laurel & Hardy (Way Out West) Colour Version (Cert. U) £10.99

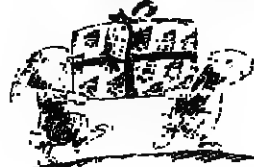


Roy Chubby Brown - The Helmet Rides Again (Cert. 18) £14.99



Blackadder Christmas Carol (Cert. PG) £10.99

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LONDON GALLERIES

Mad about drawing in the rising sun

Richard Cork reviews a retrospective devoted to the printmaker Hokusai, one of the world's great iconographers

At the age of 83, the 19th century Japanese artist Hokusai brushed an astonishingly deft ink self-portrait onto the final page of a letter to his publisher. Although his face looks deeply wrinkled, below a bald pate alleviated only by a few strands of white hair, he is far from senile. While his mouth opens in smiling, mischievous conversation, his right arm rises to jab the air with a resilient index finger. The portrait catches the energy and impish eccentricity of an artist who, having changed his name over 30 times, once described himself as "the old man mad with drawing".

This lifelong infatuation fired him with a boundless zest. At a time when most octogenarians were content to prepare for death, Hokusai insisted in a brief yet irrepressible autobiography that "by the age of one hundred I will have reached a magnificent level, and at one hundred and ten each dot and each line will be alive." He failed to reach his goal, dying in 1849 at 89 after producing more than 30,000 designs. But Hokusai's finest work was certainly achieved in the closing decades of his life. The Royal Academy's retrospective is powered throughout by an unstoppable momentum, reaching a climax of inventiveness in the 1830s. Although he was reduced to penury at one stage in the decade, most of the outstanding print sequences date from this prodigious period.

Just how original he became in old age can be gauged from the earliest works on view. Hokusai's training, which probably began when he was 19, confined him within the tradition of the popular kabuki theatre. However lively his actor prints appear, with their contorted poses and ferocious, eye-rolling expressions, they conform to the rules laid down by his master Katsukawa Shunsho.

But Hokusai's concerns were far too all-embracing to be limited for ever inside the "floating world" conventions of the period. Actors and fashionable courtesans, the two leading themes in Japa-

nese prints, engaged his restless temperament far less than the world beyond such claustrophobic boundaries. After falling out with Shunsho, he explored a thoroughly eclectic range of possibilities. Chinese and European alternatives appear in his work, but its fundamental inspiration stemmed from voracious observation of nature.

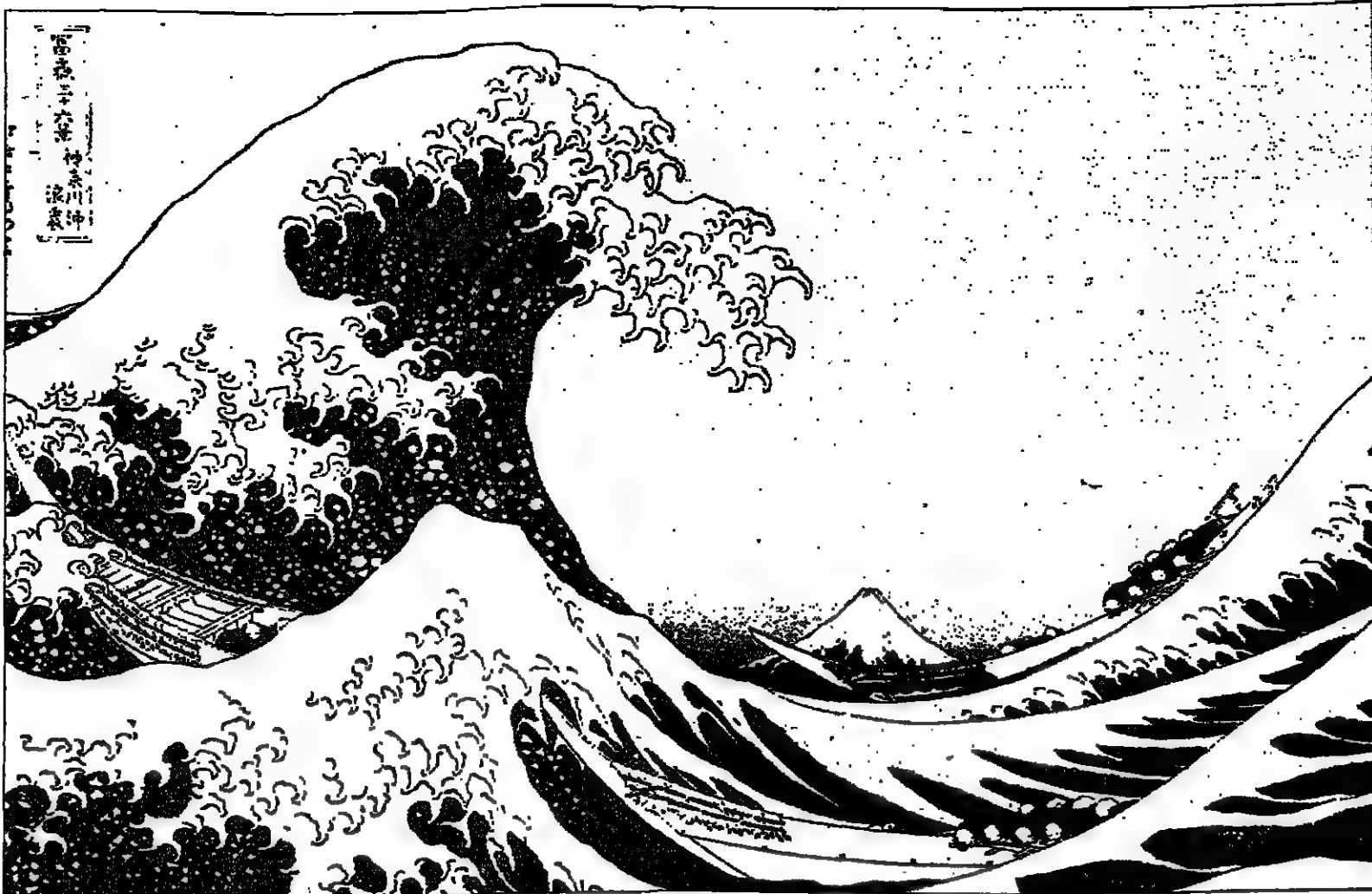
In a prophetic print of 1797, two women stand on the beach at Enoshima and talk to a group of children. They belong within the elegant tradition of the "floating world" and yet Hokusai ensures that the rest of the space is given over to the superbly rhythmic undulations of the sea. They gather into a surprisingly large wave, defined at the moment when poised to fall headlong onto the shore.

Only a few years later, Hokusai dispensed with the women and concentrated on the full-blown dynamism of a storm at sea. Although tiny figures can still be detected in the central boat, they are dwarfed by the arching, engulfing power of a wave gathered to its full height.

Hokusai, however, had to wait another quarter of a century before he realised the subject's full potential. Soon after his 70th birthday, he returned to the Kanagawa coastline and executed his most celebrated image: *The Great Wave*.

Here, with the economy of an artist who knows precisely what to emphasise or leave out, he immerses us in the sea's turbulence. Diminutive boatmen cower as their fragile craft lance through the apocalyptic sea. They may not survive more than a few more seconds, for the wave now assumes monstrous proportions. Already beginning to break, it extends predatory fingers of foam towards the voyagers below. And since Japanese viewers were accustomed to looking at pictures from right to left, the wave's impact would have hit them at the climax of their eyes' journey across the sheet.

In this masterfully organised print, which assumed an icon-like status after it became known in the West, the coastline is no longer visible. The



At his peak? *The Great Wave*, circa 1830-31, a print by the Japanese master Hokusai, on show at the Royal Academy

only reassuring reminder of land rears up in the distance, where the snow-covered Mount Fuji stands out against a band of blackened sky.

Hokusai has integrated the pyramidal form so well with the rest of the design that Fuji could easily be mistaken for another wave. But its presence is important, for the print belongs to a sequence called *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*, which crowns his career.

This immensely fertile series gives the exhibition its most absorbing room. The sea

soon subsides, and in clear close-to, emerging with a snow-strewn peak from the darkness of a sudden rain-storm smothering its slopes. Orange lightning fractures the gloom, but in other prints Fuji becomes the acme of placidity. Mist moves across the base, rendered with the utmost simplicity as horizontal bands of bare paper. Then the mountain is relegated to the horizon, and tamed by the structure of a rounded bridge framing it in the foreground.

Sometimes Fuji almost disappears, veiled in a white haze which silhouettes an isolated fisherman pulling at cormorants on his taut lines. Elsewhere the familiar pyramid is reasserted as nothing more than a refined outline, serene above the frantic gesturing of figures buffeted by an unexpected gust of wind blowing papers and leaves around.

Whenever people play a prominent part in these images, they usually end up staring across at the ubiquitous volcano. It mesmerises the women gathered on a tea-house balcony and impels a ferryman to look up from his labours on the rich blue river.

For all the proliferation of incidents enlivening these prints, and the inexhaustible variety of their vantage-points, Fuji's fascination remains constant. Hokusai's love-affair with the mountain is sustained throughout, emphasising its sublimity with an unforced grandeur which revolutionised the conventions

CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES

OUT AND ABOUT: Louis Auguste Schwiter (1805-1889), who frequently visited England from 1825 on, made numerous attractive pastel studies of landscape around London. These date from 1831.

Louis Auguste Schwiter, Max Rutherford at Deborah Gage, 38 Old Bond Street, W1 (071-701 5579) Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, until December 13.

LATVIA IN LONDON: Indulis Zarins is professor of painting at the Riga Academy of Arts, but does not paint like an academic: his style is richly coloured and almost expressionistic in its bold brushwork.

Indulis Zarins, Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, EC2 (071-247 5844) Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, until November 30.

LOOKING BACK: Not all Japanese designers of today are preoccupied with electronic gadgetry. The makers of *mingei* ("art of the people") continue traditions of exquisite taste and refinement in everyday objects. *Mingei*, Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, N1 (071-278 7700) Tues-Sat 11am-8pm, Sun 2-8pm, until January 12.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

BRIEFING

Box of tricks

THE man who created the "look" of such films as *Lawrence of Arabia*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *The Great Gatsby*, *A Passage to India* and *Doctor Zhivago* is to be honoured by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in a "Salute to Craftsmanship" tomorrow. John Box, the art director and production designer, has won four Academy Awards and four BAFTA awards in a career spanning more than 40 years. Most famous of his accomplishments, probably, was his re-creation for *Doctor Zhivago* of snowy Russia in midsummer Spain.

Queue to win

REJOICING in the imposing title "Best Act In The World Today" is the rock group R.E.M. That accolade was bestowed on Wednesday at the Q magazine awards ceremony in Abbey Road recording studios. R.E.M. also won the Best Album award with *Out of Time*. Best new act was deemed to be Seal, and the Q Merit Award "for an outstanding and continued contribution to the music industry" went to Lou Reed.

Last chance...

A COMBINATION of troubadour and one-man picket-line, Gil Scott-Heron has been espousing radical causes for two decades. He is one of the godfathers of rap, though his best lyrics are a good deal more sophisticated than those of today. Environmentalism was on his agenda long before the rain forests came into fashion, but his most memorable song, "Hello Sunday, Hello Road", was a funky, apocalyptic glimpse of life on the tour bus. He completes a residency at the Jazz Cafe (071-284 4358) tonight.

ARTS REVIEWS

Theatre, Dance and Music

page 22

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ARCHIVE RECORDINGS

Discs that slip back into place

Forget today's classical superstars. As David Robinson reports, there is strong demand for reissues of recordings by the great singers and instrumental players of the past



Adeline Patte her rarities have now been reissued

Some thirty years ago, there was no way to hear the voice of Tetravini or Tamagno, Marie Lloyd or Dan Leno, or the playing of Paderewski or Liszt - unless, that is, you belonged to the circle of collectors of 78rpm records. These tended to be dedicated people preoccupied with mechanical devices to eliminate the surface noise of their precious discs.

There were one or two specialised dealers in rare records, but the hunt mostly went on in junk shops and street markets and on the collectors' grapevine. If they might not actually kill for a unique Pol Plancon or an unissued Caruso, devotees would certainly pay three-figure sums for rarities.

By contrast, today the CD catalogues include thousands of historical recordings. Practically all the one-time rarities are available, in batches of 20, for £12 or less.

Scanning the historical CD racks, from Anderson (Marian) to Yaw (Ellen), the labels most often encountered are likely to be Pearl, Opal and Flapper. "I think we can modestly claim to lead the field," says John Waite, co-founder and director of the labels' parent company, Pavilion Records. "Though you have to move fast to keep ahead of the pack these days. It is an expanding business."

Started by John Waite and Charles Haynes as a part-time operation in 1968, the firm operates from the Sussex hamlet of Sparrows Green. The entire staff now consists of Waite and his new partner, Philip Leask, and one full-time assistant.

Collectors from the tough old days can only marvel how Pavilion manages to assemble the complete recordings of, say, Caruso or Adeline Patte: not only the known rarities but discs that were never commercially issued. "Practically everything comes from private collections," says Waite. "Collectors are fantastically generous. They are generally evangelical about their interest and keen for people to share their enthusiasms, whether it is McCormack or Martinelli."

"Some things, of course, are incredibly rare and expensive to buy or hire. The material is located in hundreds of collec-

tions, dotted around the world. I am currently negotiating with a collector in Brazil, the only person in the world to possess all seven Brazilian Odeon label issues of Giovanni Zenatello. "Often the difficulties are unexpected. For years I have been trying to find good copies of Jan Kiepura, the Polish tenor. His recordings are not all that archaic or rare, but whenever you find them, they have been played to death."

The charm of the Pavilion list is an eclectic but personal editorial taste that embraces obscure turn-of-the-century divas, great cantors, forgotten piano virtuosos and Max Miller. "Mostly the editorial impulse comes from here, but the work of assembling an album is done by freelance specialists," says Waite. "The work of transferring is also done outside, by a small number of transfer engineers whose work we like and trust."

Other companies, Nimbus and EMI, for instance, have different methods and ideas about what is an acceptable level of surface noise. Pearl's transfers are noisier (and arguably purer) than some others.

"The aim," Waite continues, "is always to get as close as possible to the original, with the least technical interpolation from electronic engineers. We just try to get as much music out of the 78rpm grooves as there is there. You can actually get much more now than when they were first made, because the machinery for reproducing them is better. "Every record has to be treated differently. Only years of experience and very educated ears will tell you what is the right speed or stylus to make use of, or how to treat an

early Odeon or early Berliner. Turntable speed can be very controversial, with endless debates on whether a voltage drop that day might have slowed down the apparatus, or whether the singer could have decided to transpose the aria on that unique occasion." Occasionally the experts fail to agree: one record in Pearl's exemplary, 12-CD Caruso collection is reproduced twice - at the consensus speed and at the speed preferred by the editor.

"There is a steady market for these archive recordings. We are not talking Nigel Kennedy figures or even von Karajan figures, but we sell across the world, and a record that may not do well here can

have a big sale in Japan or somewhere else."

Sales are unpredictable. An album of Alessandro Moreschi, the last castrato, has proved a steady seller. The recordings, made in the Sistine Chapel at the beginning of the century, are among the most extraordinary sounds preserved. The strange tones of Moreschi's voice, backed by the Sistine choir, have an eerie, other-worldly quality. The album also includes the voice of Moreschi's patron, the nonagenarian Pope Leo XIII.

Pearl's CD of the 1900, original-cast recordings of *Flora*, a unique document of the diction, style and gaiety of Victorian musical comedy. The company has also pioneered the resurrection of the instrumental archive. Its *Peeps of Clara Schumann* is on six CDs. These recordings of Fanny Davies, Dona Eibenschütz and Adeline de Lara capture a school of piano playing whose traditions date back a century and a half.

The sounds of the past seem inexhaustible. Pavilion averages at least ten new releases a month: recent batches included Liszt's last pupil, Frederic Lamond and Covent Garden on Record A History, a four-part series on CD.

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The fortunes of Getty and Rockefeller are peanuts compared to what Dr Bridget Ogilvie has in her coffers. The Howard Hughes and Henry Ford Foundations are not in her league. Dr Ogilvie has recently taken over as the director of the Wellcome Trust, the world's wealthiest charitable foundation, and has £100 million to dole out this year, and £4.5 billion stashed away.

The opinions of those who have money to spend tend to be taken more seriously than those who have not, and Dr Ogilvie is not unaware of this. She plans to speak out regularly in future about the low opinion which she considers the government has of scientists, and has just launched a campaign, at considerable personal risk, to justify the use of animals in medical experiments.

Dr Ogilvie, aged 53, is tall and fearless, but, on the face of it, an unlikely choice as the head of a scientific foundation. The daughter of an Australian outback sheep farmer, the combined disadvantages of sex, nationality, and a degree in agriculture ought to have excluded her from the oak-panelled boardroom.

Instead, they were precisely what the trust wanted, to take it out of its white-coated anonymity. Her mission to explain covers everything from the trust's funding of research into the notoriously under-resourced area of mental illness, to specific projects on the causes of anorexia and the human equivalent of BSE.

Very little of the trust-funded work on human disease could take place without tests on animals, and it is that which caused Dr Ogilvie to stand up to animal rights activists at a time when most scientists are holding back, for fear of bombing or attacks by the more radical groups.

As the chairman of the Research for Health Charities Group, she felt she had to speak out when activists started targeting charities such as Cancer Research. "When volunteers who collect were being harassed and those who worked in shops were getting threatening phone calls, I really thought it was too much," Dr Ogilvie says. "Often people work for these charities because one of their family has died."

That was coupled with the activists being rather sophisticated about getting at school children, and turning a whole generation of science with horror stories of nasty vivisection and lovely furry animals.

Kate Muir talks to Dr Bridget Ogilvie, the director of the Wellcome Trust, who has risked the wrath of anti-vivisectionists by supporting medical experiments on animals

Children got the impression that dogs and cats were dying by the minute. In fact, 85 per cent of experiments are on rodents. "The welfare of animals is an absolutely proper concern. No scientist is anything other than enthusiastic about it. But if all research on animals was banned, it would simply mean there would be no further advance."

During her years as a research scientist, Dr Ogilvie, who has a PhD in parasitology, found there were many links between veterinary and human problems. For example, the worms which cause elephantiasis in human testicles were similar to worms in cats.

Far from having a clinical coldness about using animals, she grew particularly attached to a strain of "fascinating" black and white rats, which would poke their noses eagerly out of the cage to greet her.

Furthermore, she points out that some of those who claim not to use animals in experiments are probably using tissue culture, antibodies, or anti-serum, all flesh-based. The news for those avoiding animal-tested products is not good — everything from the dye in clothes to toothpaste is tested.

"Since Thalidomide, there have been much stricter laws on testing, because that drug was not tried on pregnant animals."

She wonders, too, about the honesty of some of the claims advanced by the makers of "humane" cosmetics. They would have to contain very old-fashioned ingredients not to have been tested at some point, years ago. I think there are plenty enough cosmetics about without testing any more.

She has just bought some "crunch-free" lipsticks to see if they actually stick on.

The antithesis of the eccentric scientist, she wears smart suits and works, not in a laboratory rocking of sulphur, but in a huge room,

with a chandelier and a marble fireplace. An old-master-style painting of Galileo hangs on one wall. So it is appropriate that her plan is to change the image of science in Britain.

"From what is promulgated from on high", she says, with a significant nod, "you'd think academic scientists were a lazy bunch of layabouts, and it just isn't so. It is an extraordinarily badly paid job — scientists get paid 35 per cent less than their comparable peer group in other professions — and on top of that we expect them to referee and examine unpaid."

In the past decade, she has watched dozens of frustrated colleagues leave for the better money, and facilities, of private companies. The average science PhD student earns about £8,000 a year, for up to five years — not a great incentive compared to offers from the major pharmaceutical companies, or even the City. She worries that scientists are spending so much time scrabbling around for private grants, and tailoring research to fit them, that they do not have enough time to think, or to embrace their students.

The Wellcome Trust — which owns 75 per cent of the drugs company Wellcome plc, and survives on its profits — has found itself, along with a few other charities, putting up as much money as the government-funded Medical Research Council. They each provide around £217m in grants each year. "Although the government has put a lot more money into research, the cost of doing research has enormously outstripped the increase."

Like state-of-the-art stereo equipment, technology constantly goes out of date, and the meagre investment in Britain shows no signs of keeping pace.

She gives a depressing picture of

the future. "There are universities with crumbling 1960s buildings and fewer staff, doing double the work, while trying to compete for research grants. Some papers that come in now will credit five or six charities for help. How long do you think each grant submission takes?"

The government is lucky that such charities exist to do some of the work. The growth of the Wellcome Trust, from having an income of £1m in 1965, has relieved it of a large part of the burden. Most of the profits of Wellcome plc come from the anti-herpes drug Zovirax, and although profits are small on the anti-Aids drug AZT (Retrovir), the company's share price has been greatly improved as a result. Sir Henry Wellcome, the American businessman who made his fortune introducing the compressed pill or "tabloid" into Britain in the 1880s, would be surprised that the profits from a cure for venereal disease are keeping science research afloat today.

Sir Henry would also be surprised by his trust's present director, since woman scientists were not quite the thing in his day. It was the fact that they remained not quite the thing until recently in Australia that caused Dr Ogilvie to decamp. She even tried to return home, 20 years ago, after many years work in Britain, to apply for a job as the head of a laboratory. She knew a few of the men of the interview panel.

"I have never seen a more uncomfortable bunch of men in all my life," Dr Ogilvie says. "They were wriggling in their seats, and told me if I was a man, they would recommend me for the job, but they knew it was hopeless being a woman."

She found the chauvinism was institutional, never personal. "I have always found men to be... a pleasure, both to work with and socially." But at the time Australia "had a straight tax on being female" — women scientists were paid Aus\$425 less than men, in any job.

Had Dr Ogilvie's father not been radical compared to his fellow men, she might never be in her present position — he paid for her to go to a good school. "When his bank manager was going through the firm accounts, which were terribly in debt, he said, 'Why are you spending all this on your daughter's education? You should be spending it on fertiliser.' My father replied that education was the best fertiliser, and stayed in the red."



Charity begins in the laboratory: Bridget Ogilvie, the director of a multi-billion pound organisation

Home-made prints of peace

Are people who personalise their Christmas cards egocentric or simply frustrated artists? Every one of the two hundred million cards that will be sent out over the next two weeks carries some information about the giver: whether the detail explicit in the busy person's cyclostyled newsletter, or the general implicit in the choice of card.

But the brave souls who design their own cards choose to display still more information about themselves.

The family of Alicia Collinson, a barrister, has drawn its own Christmas cards for 40 years, including in the illustrations references to the year's personal landmarks.

"My father started it when he was on the Northern Circuit," Ms Collinson says. "There'd be references to bar politics, but mainly details of the family, our achievements, hobbies and travels, usually in Victorian settings. It was more than a Christmas card: over the years they have formed a pictorial family record."

Ms Collinson continued the

Why some people like to put themselves in the Christmas card picture



Story of a family's year: Alicia Collinson's card for 1990

tradition in her own family: her husband, Damian Green, a television presenter and the Conservative candidate for Brent East, and their young daughter.

"Last year I put the three of us in a Victorian coaching scene. There were references

to the Kremlin, because Damian went to Moscow. *Twin Peaks* in the background, and the gate in France where we went for our summer holidays."

"This year, to reflect how our daughter has taken over our lives, I've relegated

Damian and me to a portrait on the wall of a domestic Christmas scene. Delia Ray and her husband Jonathan Orade started their own tradition five years ago, when they combined a Christmas card with a change of address card.

"On the front, I drew our new house in Colchester, with a Christmas tree in the front and a star in the window," Ms Ray says. "It's gone on from there: we like doing them and our friends like receiving them. We find it both cheaper to do — last year's cost about 10p each — and much more fun. We've become more sophisticated: at first it was just photocopying one side. Now we Letraset the message, use cut-outs, whatever."

The children of one of her relatives take it in turns to do a drawing of the family which is subsequently printed. "It's always intriguing — seeing whether the father has kept his beard and if the family dog's still going..."

One group of people who have obvious reasons for producing their own cards are professional artists. However, there is a display element in artists' cards, which somehow removes them from the truly personal. One year, Gillian Taylor, the miniaturist, printed a snow scene in complex relief, with her printer's mark in the corner and her signature above, making it both a business card and a collector's item.

The epitome of personal design remains with Ms Collinson's ilk, though with her family's high profile her cards are also an advertisement. Some might quibble over the personal commending of a religious festival, but within the conversion of Christmas to a secular festival, do-it-yourself design at least shows that time and trouble have been taken.

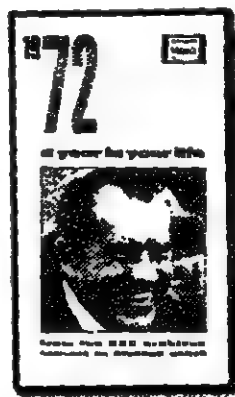
But coded information can be ambiguous. Last year, Ms Collinson included a coat of arms surmounted "Freedom" and the date: November 27. She was referring to the Freedom of the City awarded to her; others remembered Margaret Thatcher's fall and put Mr Green, rightly or wrongly, on the party's triumphant left wing.

JAY ANDREWS

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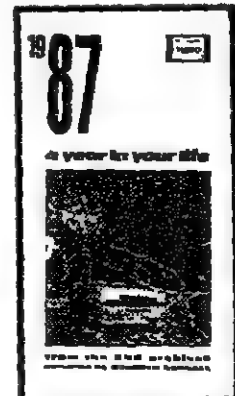
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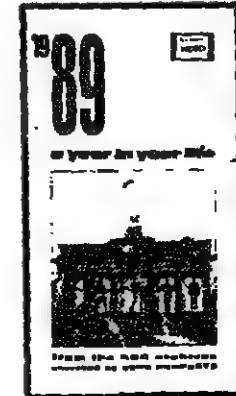
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An end in sight to class struggle

Jonathan Clark believes that, far from being socially divided, Britain is surprisingly close to a classless society

George Orwell wrote in 1940: "England is the most class-ridden society under the sun. It is a land of snobbery and privilege, ruled largely by the old and silly." Historians and sociologists, economists and political scientists, churchmen and journalists all endorsed his main premise. Some defended it, others deplored it; few disbelieved that class was really there.

The idea of a transition to a classless society seemed almost inconceivable in 1940. Historians were still busy debating whether the standard of living of the working class rose or fell during the industrial revolution. Few of them doubted that industrialisation naturally generated class, and class structure was assumed to be objectively present in industrial society, like steel girders in a modern building. England, as the first industrial society, was the paradigm case.

Establishment historians expounded the virtues and achievements of the elite in state-building, empire or the invention of parliamentary government and the rule of law; middle-class apologists such as James Mill had produced equally polemical defences of the middling ranks; others, such as G.D.H. Cole, rearranged proletarian history into the "long march of everyman". All assumed the reality of class.



George Orwell: chronicler of snobbish distinctions

Only in the last two decades have the intellectual foundations of these shared assumptions been undermined. Marx's claim that "the class struggle necessarily leads to the dictatorship of the proletariat" could always be referred to future verification. Now the existence of class struggle at all is challenged by historians who replace a watershed industrial revolution with a pattern of messy evolution, emphasising the survival of old attitudes, and doubt that the social change necessarily promoted stratification.

Historians increasingly write of class not as a structure but as a descriptive language, partially adopted in the early 19th century for ideological reasons, and not because class objectively "emerged" with industrialisation. If class was a structural feature of modern societies, it would hardly fade away; but class as a descriptive language, a set of categories or expectations, might easily be replaced by some other language. Race and religion, the rise of feminism and the ecology movement, the contest between Euro-euphoria and radical individualism - all have produced a political vocabulary profoundly different from that of 1940.

At its worst, class-consciousness was a neurosis that never found its English Freud. Its strains produced good fiction (Nancy Mitford, Evelyn Waugh) but unhappy lives. Class identity was depicted as inherent, almost a genetic inheritance. In *The Road to*

Wigan Pier, the Etonian Orwell recorded that his upbringing had taught him to believe that "the lower classes smell". They were indelibly different. Yet Orwell never thought that losing their class prejudices would make his contemporaries classless. This was least of all the case, he added, with the socialist bourgeoisie, who would never admit to their real and deep dislike of the working class.

Even as Orwell lamented the apogee of class, however, deep changes were afoot. "After 1918 began to appear something that had never existed in England before: people of indeterminate social class. In 1910 every human being in these islands could be 'placed' in an instant by his clothes, manners and accent. That is no longer the case," Orwell discerned the rise of the engineers, scientists, skilled and service sector workers for whom traditional class ideas were merely irrelevant. Orwell predicted that wartime patriotism would prove stronger

than class, and saw Dunkirk as the symbolic event. In 1940 he went further: "The experience of all classes in society tends to become more and more alike... class distinctions in a country like England are now so unreal that they cannot last much longer."

This was premature rather than wrong. Smoke-stack industries hung on for decades. Bourgeois intellectuals celebrated and sought to preserve the old culture of class, as in television series like *Coronation Street*. Despite their efforts, de-classification, which united the technicians and executives in the 1960s, spilled over in the 1980s to engulf the lower middle and part of the working class itself.

Political slogans tend to work only after they have become realities. The property-owning democracy became a catchphrase once about 60 per cent of houses were owner-occupied. Perhaps classlessness works as an ideal after a similar slice of society has abandoned its class self-image. But there is more to it than that.

A lifetime's preoccupation with social relations led Orwell to what he saw as a great discovery. His vision, in *Coming up for Air* and elsewhere, rehabilitated the lower middle class. If only they could break from their historical nostalgia and defensive class consciousness, they might provide the natural leaders the working class lacked and was powerless without.

Abandoning class but sharing ordinary English decency and common sense, the two groups could go on to build a better society. At the time, this visionary role for the hated petit bourgeoisie flew in the face of Marxist theory and everyday experience. In John Major's Britain, it seems peculiarly close to the final outcome.

The author is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Terry Waite's release should ensure that tolerance and evangelism live together, argues Dr George Carey

Break hatred's chains

victions they are not being tolerant if they allow others their way. They are simply indifferent. Tolerance implies deeply felt convictions and values, passions held in check by compassion.

The issue is of great importance to our society, as minority groups seek to make their contribution to the community and to practise their distinctive religions within it. We are called to be tolerant of those whose way of living and behaving is not like ours. It becomes a problem when religions clash fiercely at the ideological level and make claims which call into question the beliefs of those who differ from them.

Christianity, the most widespread faith in this land, faces a particular challenge from the multiplicity of faiths now practised here. Christianity has always been, and will no doubt remain, a

missionary faith. The gospel it enshrines is one that commands it to "go and make disciples". The concept of God it embraces is Christ-centred. This is not something we apologise about, but if tolerance has something to do with "allowing" or "permitting" another faith, we may ask whether missionary faiths can co-exist side by side? Is it time for Christianity to abandon its evangelistic zeal?

This is not an option open to any follower of Jesus Christ. We are called to share our faith humbly with our neighbours - and humility is one of the hardest but most necessary of virtues. Christians have to realise that their history has included some shameful examples of intolerance: against Jews, against Muslims, against fellow Christians. Our zeal to evangelise can become a terrible and frightening weapon, far removed from the loving tolerance that characterised the one who said: "Come unto me all you who are weary and are heavily laden."

But, that gracious invitation to "come" has often in the past been turned into compulsion and therefore menace. All methods of coercion that threaten, manipulate or target another religious group must be rejected as unworthy of the name we bear.

It is my hope that my Church, while deeply committed to the uniqueness of the revelation given to us in Christ and committed to the universality of that gospel, will yet understand that the renewal of our life in the Church and the mission to those beyond it must go hand-in-hand.

This Decade of Evangelism must begin with, and constantly include, prayer and work for the quality and integrity of what goes

on within the Church. This is why the Archbishop of York and I are launching aims to reach the 90 per cent of the 25 million baptised Anglicans who have slipped away from the Church. We must show our commitment to the young, whose common complaint is that they find us "boring", commitment to the task of building up the local parish church; a refinement of synodical and legal structures so that our resources are well deployed; above all, a commitment to a joyful faith that may speak again to our contemporaries.

So can passion and tolerance live side by side? My experience is that they can if we listen to each other with integrity and compassion. To this task we must all give our attention, otherwise there will be more dark prisons where future Terry Waite's and Tom Sutherland's will be victims of our hatreds and narrow sympathies.

The Archbishop of Canterbury will lecture at York University tonight on "Tolerating Religion".

Agreement is not in the bag

A WEEK IN POLITICS

Peter Riddell says John Major will need the skill of Houdini before Maastricht

So the Great Commons Debate on Europe resolved nothing. It could not before the Maastricht summit in two-and-a-half weeks' time. It was primarily an exercise in what John Major does best, managing his own party. He is above all the prime minister as chief whip, carefully handling critics, arranging breakfast, for instance, with Norman Tebbit on Tuesday before the debate. Every faction was allowed its say.

Last night Mr Major duly received overwhelming support from Tory MPs for his negotiating position. But there were uncomfortable moments. Mrs Thatcher and others drew lines in the sand to show what is not acceptable. The referendum rabbit is now out and running, with Downing Street in clumsy pursuit.

As a debate, it was better than it might have been. Parliamentary occasions talked up in advance tend to be anti-climactic, but this was not. The Great Men and the Great Women of British politics all participated, the dissenters more absorbing than the loyalists.

But as ministers are not slow to point out, many leaders of what have become known as the Eurosceptics are retiring from the Commons. After the election, the guerrilla band on the Tory backbenches will be led by captains rather than generals. As Mrs Thatcher delivered her headmistress's address, government frontbenches sitting two rows below, all her creations, sat squirming like embarrassed schoolboys, wishing she would go away, and aware that soon she will not be around.

Mr Major's speech on Wednesday was one of his best, in marked contrast to his scrappy and parti-



san performance during the Queen's Speech debate three weeks ago. Mr Major's approach reflects the public's desire both for Britain to play a positive leadership role in the Community, and its reservations about increasing Brussels intrusiveness into British life. By comparison, the Opposition speakers sounded less convincing, in part because the three main party leaders are in broad agreement about Maastricht. "We are better Europeans than you" has little resonance. Neil Kinnock's speech reads better than it sounded: he never recovered from an early silly squabble with a Tory MP.

Mr Kinnock sought to differentiate Labour by arguing that the government was playing for a draw, but a Labour government would have trouble persuading the rest of the Community, or rather Germany, to accept its "wider and more positive concept of economic convergence". Involving regional policies and convergence of growth and employment. The Liberal Democrats have always been the most pro-integrationist party, but Paddy Ashdown is in danger of being too far ahead of public opinion, and has blurred his message by jumping on the referendum bandwagon.

But there was about the debate an air of unreality and isolation from the real arguments in windswept Dutch hotels. In the Don Pacifico debate of 1850, all Europe was listening when Palmerston, Lord John Russell, Peel, Disraeli, Gladstone and Cobden spoke on the not dissimilar issue of the rights of British citizens abroad. It was the lion's loudest roar. Now Britain is only one among twelve. Mr Major's shrewd assessment of the British mood may not be enough to bring agreement. What may sound sensible to most MPs sounds like the dragging of feet to many in the rest of the Europe, just another example of British ambivalence.

Mr Major and Douglas Hurd left no doubt in their speeches that Britain wants to reach agreement at Maastricht. But Mr Major said it would be a "setback" not to reach an agreement. This would undermine his claim to be forging a better relationship with the EC, but it would also not end the matter. As Sir Geoffrey Howe argued, if the government were to be negative at Maastricht, other countries might press ahead on their own and "might ensure that we would be left behind, possibly under a Labour government".

But we cannot afford agreement at any price. Mr Major sought to distance himself from Mrs Thatcher's last minute U-turn at European summits when he warned other countries against believing that Britain would "sign up to whatever is on offer at the 59th minute of the 11th hour". This is no bluff. He knows that extensions of Community competence into areas such as industrial practice and union relations and the ending of national frontier controls would be unacceptable to many in the cabinet.

For agreement, he will have to compromise, probably over the role of the European Parliament and the environment. But the warnings Mrs Thatcher and others gave will exclude such deals. Mr Major will have to be prepared to confront such critics over any likely Maastricht agreement.

What of a referendum? Advocates range across the Eurospectrum. Tory critics argue that allowing the people to decide is a way of avoiding a party split, just as Labour did in 1975 with the referendum on British membership of the EC. Mrs Thatcher captured yesterday's headlines and discomfited Downing Street, which appeared to be following in her wake when it allowed the possibility of one in the next parliament. Mr Major says a referendum on a single currency is a matter for a future parliament, but at least three cabinet ministers sympathise with the Tory critics; none pressed the point yesterday.

Mr Major still has several weeks of delicate manoeuvring at home and abroad before he is out of the European trap. Ministers talk in the language of escapology: "I think we'll make it, but I would not bet on it."



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

Monday was the first day of the rest of my life. Monday I began a new career. Monday I became a travelling salesman.

I looked the part. I had the brown trilby. I had the brown suit; I had the brown tie; I had the brown shoes. When I looked down, I could see the trilby reflected in the shoes. Here is one of the top travelling salesmen, you would have said. This man is spick. You could eat your dinner off him. This man could sell anything. That, at least, is what I told myself. Because a salesman's got to dream, boy; it comes with the territory.

Not easy, when the territory is Leeds. Leeds was cut off. I arrived at King's Cross with 15 minutes to catch the 13.10, but the 13.10 was not there to be caught. It had been replaced by a big sign saying that a wire had snapped at Hatch End. Why it had snapped was not explained, possibly because it had been snapped by a falling leaf and BR had taken all the cartoons it could take. I began to sweat into the brown suit. The brown suit began to wrinkle.

Two other men were looking at the sign. They were pretty spick, too. They also had briefcases. One of the briefcases had *Richard Wallis* on it, in gold. Its owner cursed for a bit, and said to the other man: "The 13.00 out of St Pancras to Edinburgh stops at Sheffield, we could change at Sheffield for Leeds." Dick knew stuff like that, because

Monday was not the first day of the rest of his life. You could tell that.

St Pancras is next door to King's Cross. I galloped, Dick galloped, we galloped all three. Crossing the road was easy, I was a short head up at the further kerb, but St Pancras stands atop three flights of steps and I had not been trained at the Willy Loman School of Inter-Terminal Sprinting like Dick and his friend, and I tripped on the third flight and they went past me like whippets while I stopped to replace a shoe which had become horribly soiled. When I looked down, now, I could see the trilby reflected in only one toecap.

Still, I made the 13.00. By the time I did so, however, it had been made by most of the people in the world. The sides of the coaches were buckling. But I found a slot to wedge myself into and I put the brown trilby on the rack, to make it easier for someone to throw a rucksack onto it. The trilby was now flat. If you put it back on, you would not want to see it reflected, even in one toecap.

The train lurched off, and all the other travelling salesmen began working where they stood. They took out lap-top computers, even though they did not have laps, and they clacked away. I did not have a computer, but I worked, too. I worked at trying to get mustard off the brown tie after the brown tie was passed by a man squeezing back from the buffet with a half-eaten

hamburger. The rest of his hamburger was on my remaining toecap.

Had you seen me, three hours later, a loose pile of scuffed and wrinkled stains on the Sheffield platform, you would not have said: Here is a top travelling salesman, bound for Austicks City Bookshop in Leeds to sell tonnes of his new book at his first ever signing-session, attracting hordes of purchasers by his amazing spickiness. You would have said: Here is a tramp they have just thrown off the Edinburgh train. That is why he is in Sheffield.

When I finally got to Leeds, Austicks had shut and I couldn't sort things out for Tuesday's big event, but they let me in at Queen's Hotel, times are tough, any tramp in a storm, and I went to bed, only I couldn't sleep, and the next morning the wrinkled suit had a wrinkled face to match, so I took the lot round to Austicks in the new hope that people might buy books not because the author was amazingly spick, but because he looked as though he could do with a square meal.

The signing was set for 12.30. It was the moment Terry Waite stepped onto the tarmac at RAF Lyneham, to enable everyone in Leeds to go home to watch him on television. You would think that having hung on for 1,763 days, one more wouldn't have killed him. The man calls himself a Christian, after all, and it comes with the territory.

Heavyweight role

SO WHO will play Robert Maxwell? Independent film producers are already planning to commit to celluloid the life of the late newspaper proprietor, and are sounding out potential stars.

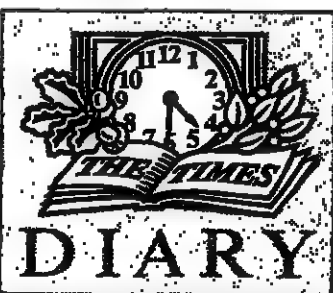
Jack Gold, who directed *The Naked Civil Servant*, a film about Quentin Crisp's life, is in the running to make the film. Gold's version would be modelled on the Orson Welles classic *Citizen Kane*. He has even mapped out how the film would start. "There would be a splash in the water. Then we would follow the ripples in the water, which are symbolic of the waves Maxwell caused," he says. And which actor would take the part? Marlon Brando, he suggests, without saying whether for his Oscar-winning acting skills or his Maxwellian physique.

Michael Winner, the award-winning film director, is also keen. "But I would want Bob Hoskins to take the lead. I would be more interested in directing it once we know whether or not he was murdered."

Justin Hardy, a director from the London production company Hardy Perennial, is already negotiating with European production companies about a film. "My proposed script starts with Maxwell falling off the boat. We would then return to his birth. It would be a classic whodunnit. Only one man could fill the part, Alexei Sayle."

Peter Goodchild, a producer at BBC films, says: "Only yesterday I was talking to my colleagues about a Maxwell film. It would be a fascinating drama documentary or television film."

Tom Bower's book *Maxwell the Outsider* is likely to be used as a film script. "My agents are think-



ing about it already," says Bower, who exposed much of the Lichtenstein connection in Maxwell's complicated financial affairs. "It will be a fantastic drama. It has got intrigue, crime and mystery, plus Maxwell's wartime heroics. And who does Bower think should play the part? Perhaps Leo McKern, but I don't think any actor is good enough to portray the real man."

● Diplomats who disagree with government policy can subtly indicate their displeasure, according to Sir Harold Walker, our man in Iraq. Interviewed in *The Wykehamist*, the magazine of his alma mater, Winchester College, he says: "If I go along with the ruling I will say 'we think'. If I don't, I say 'the British government thinks'."

Cover boy

BRADFORD is already holding a referendum. Not about Europe, but about the artistic merits of David Hockney's latest work of art for his home city.

The blue-and-yellow picture of Bradford city hall, with J.B. Priestley's statue in the background, adorns the front cover of Bradford council's *Travel Guide 1992*, but within hours of its first public showing on Tuesday, the picture had caused such a stir that the *Bradford Evening Telegraph* &

Argus decided to put it to the public test. Readers are being asked to respond to the newspaper's question: "Is it a childish daub or another masterpiece?"

Bradford's most famous export - he now lives in Los Angeles - also put the city hall on the front cover of the 1989 telephone directory. But that was not universally acclaimed either. Mike Glover, the newspaper's editor, says: "There was a huge debate last time, and there will be this time, which is why we have posed the question."

Hockney must be hoping Wellington primary school, where he

A bigger splash



was a pupil, does not respond. It sent to the paper a painting of its own for the telephone directory at the time, and most readers preferred it to the Hockney.

Europe's battlefield

THE name Maastricht has already entered the English language as a symbol of profound political significance. The town's history as one of the most fought over battlefields of European history well equips it for its present role.

Half of the EC nations - the Spanish, the British, the French,

the Belgians and the Germans as well as the Dutch - have all at some time sought or won control of the town on the banks of the river Maas. Even D'Artagnan, he of the musketeers, fought on its battlefields in 1673, when the French captured the town from the Dutch.

Its famous basilica contains a *sedes sapientiae*, or seat of wisdom, on which, presumably, Jacques Delors plans to be seated next month. Delors' disciples, meanwhile, will no doubt gather at the *Bonnefantenmuseum*, or good children museum. The Basilica of Our Lady is clearly where followers of the anti-federalist Queen Margaret will rally their forces, while the town's *Helport*, or Gate to Hell, obviously leads to the federalist road down which John Major and Douglas Hurd refuse to travel.

Oustings

BLOODLETTING over Europe is continuing in the Tory party. George Gardiner, one of the party's most doughy Thatcherites, has been ousted from the vice-chairmanship of the Tory backbench foreign affairs committee by Cyril Townsend. Gardiner chairs the 92 group of Tories.

Townsend was a leading supporter of Michael Heseltine's leadership bid. Earlier this year selection move by constituency activists over his role in Mrs Thatcher's fall.

● Tact is not Lucinda Lambton's strong point. It seems. Interviewed on BBC's *Pebble Mill* yesterday, she was asked about her pet architectural hates. Looking around the studio, she replied that "this place" would do for starters, adding that the new BBC building in White City would come a close second. The interviewer moved swiftly on.

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

Britain leads Europe in patriotism

Only Northern Irish, Italian and Spanish respondents supported strongly the idea that "the state should provide more for individuals". Only Spain and France have a larger proportion than the 41 per cent of Britons who believe that

According to the poll, for which the British data was supplied by Gallup, the 1980s saw an improvement in the standing of trades unions in Britain. The number who considered them a "good" institution increased from 60 per cent to 68 per cent. By December 1989, 57 per cent felt the best way of dealing with political opponents was to "meet them halfway" compared to 38 per cent in 1983.



Continued from page 1

Western and southern
will be cloudy with
, but the southeast
parts of England will

"Die Schwäche unserer Debatte besteht darin, dass sie manchmal zu defensiv ist. Zu häufig stellen wir uns selbst dar, als ob wir uns in irgendeiner Art von Belagerungszustand befänden: als ob unsere Sorge nur darin bestünde, mit welcher Geschwindigkeit wir Ansichten und Interessen jenseits des Armeelkanals nacheinander..."

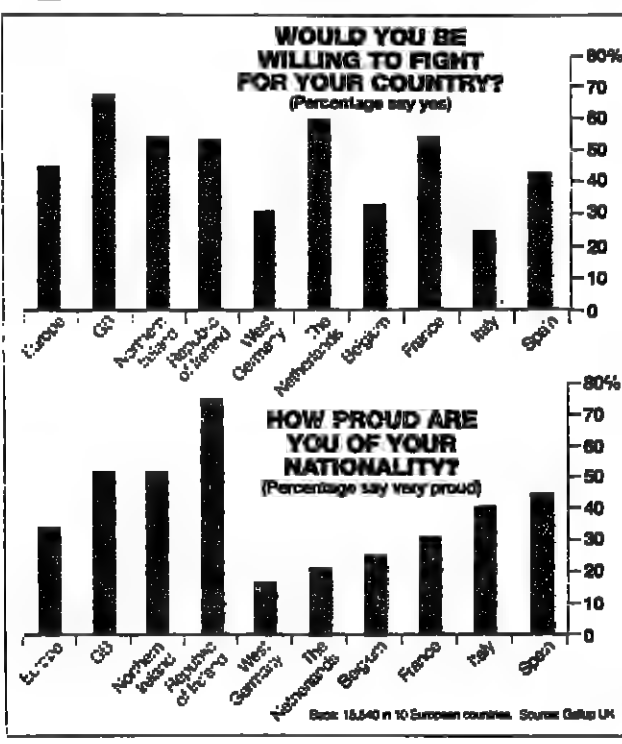
So convinced was your

All the same, and purely as a precaution — as much to rehearse for future contingencies as to deal with this one — sensible people everywhere were recommended (he put it no higher than that) to whitewash their windows, wrap themselves in bin-liners and crawl into their wardrobes, taking with them spare food and water that might be to hand...

to these. The roost pigeons falling from the sky were, it was true, an unusual feature; but the metropolis always did have a pigeon problem ...

Continued from page 1
Mrs Thatcher sitting just behind him. "Nowhere has this case against introducing a referendum on a particular issue been argued with more energy than in this House on March 11, 1975 by Mrs Thatcher."

Parliament, page 8
Peter Riddeff, page 18
Diary, page 18
Leading article, page 19



A 30x30 crossword puzzle grid. The grid is black and white, with black squares indicating non-letter positions. Numbers 1-30 are placed in the starting squares of the words. The grid is as follows:

1		2		3		4			5		6		7		8
									9						
10						11									
12											13				
14				15					16				17		
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	19						20		21						
22															
23		24				25					26				
27															
29								30							

ACROSS

- 1 Public house in which to find work before university (8).
- 5 Chalice permitted past the mouth ... (6).
- 10 ... spilling large drink (5).
- 11 Suddenly and simultaneously ... (3,2,4).
- 12 ... man, invading island with 500; airist took over (9).
- 13 In disorder, I fled the scene of battle (5).
- 14 When everything's washed out, stand here to dry (7).
- 16 Pass a note by mistake (6).
- 19 Pink (6).
- 21 Travelling in Sweden, I stood up (7).
- 23 Very small tailless insect (5).
- 25 A girl named Elise heartlessly abandoned (9).
- 27 Memo about a balance (9).

DOWN

- 28 To lower a boat, just the fall of the end is needed (5).
- 29 Finally launch missile, causing distress (6).
- 30 One who brings back stories about drink (8).

DOWN

- 1 Mansion to give help, we hear providing a fence (8).
- 2 Savings swallowed up by the greedy money-lender (5,4).
- 3 Insect right inside rock (5).
- 4 Biscuit - a superb example of a kind (7).
- 6 Whence card comes immediately (3,2,4).
- 7 Weapon used by our martial ancestors (5).
- 8 Close in to hear with it (6).
- 9 Pop puts money on the shelf (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 18/769

P	R	O	A	L	A	P	L	A	N	D	E
R	F	A	E	E	M	O	D				
C	E	F	E	N	S	I	V	E			
C	E	F	E	B	K	L	N	A			
E	R	R	O	R	U	N	I	V	E	R	S
S	I	T	R	N	W						
S	W	I	N	D	L	E	G	A	R	N	I
O	R	A	N	D	E	E	N	U			
R	E	S	T	L	E	O	R	A	N	G	E
T	M										
P	R	I	M	A	R	I	E	S			
U	O	T	A	P	R	E	S	O	N		
T	R	A	P	S	A	P	R	E	S	A	I
U	T	E	T	A	S	M	R				
P	R	E	V	A	L	E	S	L	E		

15 The state of Greenland (3,6).
17 Talk at length about one bird and say what's on your mind (4,2,3).
18 The craftsman to scoff about goodness (8).
20 Engineers take twenty-four hours at the outside to provide cure (6).
21 Approve of red-nose comic (7).
22 Soil under borders turned over starts to change hue (5).
23 Not entirely decorous object (5).
26 Look around a ship and find rope (5).

Concise answers, page 71

By Philip Howard

SCHWERE
 heavy clothes
 state of dozing

aring on the Bible
 NKAY
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 en ten
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 GOMETER
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 SE
 Muslim Christian cross
 scrub the floor
 rock cavity
 answers on page 22

the latest AA traffic and information, 24 hours a

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/roads M1-Dartford T
/roads Dartford T-M23
/roads M23-M4
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 DNB
 All denomination bank notes
 Barclays Bank PLC
 Cheques

GLASGOW
 Temp: max 6, 6 AM to
 6 AM to 6 AM, 01C [34F]

og on hills, but the southeast
ad eastern parts of England will
ny intervals. Rain in the fan
st of Scotland and Northern
day. Most parts will be mild.
Wales; wet elsewhere.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Abbotsley	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.8
Avonlea	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.0
Belfast	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.3
Birmingham	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.5
Belfast	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.7
Belmont	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.7	6.9
Cardiff	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.8	8.0	8.2	8.4
Cardiff Bay	7.4	7.6	7.8	8.0	8.2	8.4	8.6
Cranley	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.8	8.0
Dorchester	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.4
Edinburgh	6.4	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.6
Exeter	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.8
Falkland	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.8	8.0
Glasgow	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.9
Harrogate	4.9	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.1
Hastings	5.6	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.8
Huntington	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.3
Leeds	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.3
Leeds	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.5
Levensall	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.7
Littlehampton	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.7	7.9	8.1	8.3
London	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.2
Manchester	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.3
Minehead	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.8	8.0
Morriston	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.4
Newcastle	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.4
Newport	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.2
Northampton	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.3
Perthshire	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.2
Plymouth	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.2
Reading	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.2
Reading	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.4
Reading	6.4	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.6
Reading	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.8
Reading	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.8	8.0
Reading	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.8	8.0	8.2
Reading	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.8	8.0	8.2	8.4
Reading	7.4	7.6	7.8	8.0	8.2	8.4	8.6
Reading	7.6	7.8	8.0	8.2	8.4	8.6	8.8
Reading	7.8	8.0	8.2	8.4	8.6	8.8	9.0
Reading	8.0	8.2	8.4	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.2
Reading	8.2	8.4	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.2	9.4
Reading	8.4	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.2	9.4	9.6
Reading	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.2	9.4	9.6	9.8
Reading	8.8	9.0	9.2	9.4	9.6	9.8	10.0
Reading	9.0	9.2	9.4	9.6	9.8	10.0	10.2
Reading	9.2	9.4	9.6	9.8	10.0	10.2	10.4
Reading	9.4	9.6	9.8	10.0	10.2	10.4	10.6
Reading	9.6	9.8	10.0	10.2	10.4	10.6	10.8
Reading	9.8	10.0	10.2	10.4	10.6	10.8	11.0
Reading	10.0	10.2	10.4	10.6	10.8	11.0	11.2
Reading	10.2	10.4	10.6	10.8	11.0	11.2	11.4
Reading	10.4	10.6	10.8	11.0	11.2	11.4	11.6
Reading	10.6	10.8	11.0	11.2	11.4	11.6	11.8
Reading	10.8	11.0	11.2	11.4	11.6	11.8	12.0
Reading	11.0	11.2	11.4	11.6	11.8	12.0	12.2
Reading	11.2	11.4	11.6	11.8	12.0	12.2	12.4

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Weathercall is charged at 38p per minute	

7
144
MODERATE

MODERATE
 65°F
 55°F
 45°F
 10°F CALM

London 4.08 pm to 7.21 am
 Bristol 4.13 pm to 7.41 am
 Manchester 3.26 pm to 8.04 am
 Manchester 4.03 pm to 7.48 am
 Newcastle 4.30 pm to 7.47 am

Sun rises: 7.30 am
 Sun sets: 4.08 pm

Moon sets: 6.22 a.m.
 Moon rises: 4.06 pm

Last quarter: November 28

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 05C (41F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 02C (28F). Rain: 24h 0.0 mm. Wind: 6 am to 6 pm, 15 kts. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil.

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	NT
London Bridge	1.26	7.0	1.10	7.1
Bristol	12.43	4.3	1.42	4.3
Wolvermouth	6.56	12.3	7.21	4.3
Belfast	10.42	3.5	11.04	3.4
Cardiff	6.41	12.3	7.08	12.3
Newport	5.47	5.6	6.10	5.5
Dover	10.83	6.6	10.58	5.6
Wrexham	5.17	5.4	5.40	5.5
W. of W. 10	7.00	7.0	12.00	7.0

Wracombe	5.36	9.3	8.01	9.3
King's Lynn	6.03	6.7	8.28	6.7
Leith	2.03	5.6	2.32	5.6

12 MODERATE

Temperatures at midday yesterday: °C, slight fall; °F, rain & sun

	C	F		C	F
Belfast	4	39	Guernsey	12	54
Birmingham	8	46	Inverness	10	50
Blackpool	9	48	Jersey	10	50
Bristol	8	46	London	10	50
Cardiff	8	46	Manchester	9	47
Edinburgh	8	46	Newcastle	8	46
Glasgow	9	48	Norwich	8	46

Wednesday: Highest day temps: Isles of Scilly 10C (50F); lowest day temp: Exislemaur 1C (34F). Duvet & blanket, 10C (50F). Wind: 11-15 mph. Sunrise: Cape Wrath, Highland, 6.55 in. Highest sunshine: Pembrokeshire, Cornwall, and Plymouth 8.0 h.

	air	WT	PM	HT
TODAY				
Liverpool	10.57	9.5	11.19	9.1
Lowestoft	8.05	2.5	9.23	2.0
Margate	11.34	4.9		
Nottingham	5.54	7.0	6.70	7.0
Newquay	4.45	7.0	6.18	7.0
Orkney	5.21	10.0	5.52	10.0
Plymouth	4.43	5.7	5.05	5.0
Penzance	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
Portsmouth	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4

5000	10.35	4.8	11.04	4.4
5000	5.57	9.7	8.22	9.3
Tees	10.10	5.5	3.36	5.5

IN 100-001-129 11:22 43 11:58 43
m-3.2808h.

For further information call the above number or contact your financial adviser. ☐ Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. ☐ The value of investments and income from them may fluctuate and are not guaranteed. ☐ Mercury Fund Managers is part of the Mercury Asset Management Group. ^aThe Mercury Portfolio +35.2%vs FT-A All-Share Index +28.0% and MSCI World Index +8.5% 1/2/88 - 1/1/1991. Offer to offer basis, net income reinvested. Source: Plannet Synops.

Diploma to make higher payout

By MARTIN WALLER

THE deepening recession sent pre-tax profits at Diploma, the electronic and building components business, down from £19 million to £14.5 million in the year to end-September, but the group is paying a modest increase in the final dividend as a reflection of a positive cash flow and its confidence in the future.

A 6.5p final payment, against 6.25p, increases the total from 8.5p to 8.75p, despite what Christopher Thomas, the Diploma chairman, described as "a very harsh recession and in certain sectors, particularly engineering, quite the worse conditions for over 20 years".

All of Diploma's three main business sectors experienced declining profits. Electronics fell 19 per cent and building components 16 per cent, both making £6.2 million each at the pre-tax level, while the fall in special steels was even more dramatic, of 55 per cent to £1.6 million.

Mr Thomas said that the group's cash flow continued to be positive despite the inclusion of two years' payment of corporation tax for three large subsidiaries, and cash balances after the sale of a majority interest in The Access Group were at £26.5 million.

Turnover in the electronic components business reflected conditions in that sector as a whole, with static demand resulting in a 13 per cent fall in prices during the year, and Mr Thomas added that some industry estimates had suggested that the market had fallen by between 10 per cent and 15 per cent at the distribution level.

In the housebuilding sector, every optimistic sign of expectation had been dashed, he said, but the IG business had still substantially outperformed the materials supply sector and finished the year ahead in terms of operating profits.

Diploma shares ended 1p ahead at 291p.

Staff cuts and provisions hit BAA half-time profits

By COLIN CAMPBELL

PROPERTY provisions and redundancy costs at BAA, the airports operator, contributed to a fall in profits to £151 million, from £205 million, in the six months to end-September. The interim dividend was raised from 5.25p to 5.75p a share, while BAA shares rose from 22p to 476p.

The results reflected a £30.5 million provision against property assets and a £24 million charge for redundancy costs. Dr Brian Smith, the chairman, said there had also been a 6.3 per cent fall in passenger numbers because of the Gulf war and the recession, but that traffic in October had improved. In the medium to long term, BAA still expected average traffic growth to return to the normal 4 to 5 per cent rate, with a return to profit growth likely in 1992-3, he added.

BAA welcomed the Civil Aviation Authority's revised price formula for traffic charges at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports as a basis from which to continue BAA's growth.

Sir John Egan, chief executive, said there was now no longer a 7 per cent ceiling on investment, and BAA had the incentive to make profitable investment in new airport



Expecting a 1992 growth take-off: Dr Brian Smith (left) and Sir John Egan, of BAA

capacity. He added that a further 1,400 jobs would be shed through voluntary redundancy in the next few months. In March, the group announced 400 job losses. The workforce of 9,500 was expected to be down to 8,000 by the March 30 year-end, with annual savings of £20 million

on overheads eventually expected. BAA said that ADT, the security group headed by Michael Ashcroft, was no longer a shareholder on BAA's register. ADT had held a 3.4 per cent stake until "fairly recently".

Talks with British Rail

about the financing of a £235 million Heathrow Express railway link are continuing. Capital expenditure at airports totalled £131 million. By the mid-Nineties, this is expected to be between £400 million and £500 million.

Temps, page 24

Life sales defy slump

By SARA MCCONNELL

SALES of life assurance and pensions policies defied the recession in the last quarter, with annual premium business rising 10 per cent on the same period of 1990 to £776 million and single premium business increasing by 55 per cent to £2,875 million.

Figures published yesterday by the Association of British Insurers (ABI) show single premium life business rose 63 per cent to £1,819 million. Annual premium business increased by 8 per cent to £511 million, personal pension annual premium business by 15 per cent to £265 million and single premium business 43 per cent to £1,056 million.

Sales of unit linked life and pensions policies were down on this time last year. The ABI said this was because "investors have still not regained complete confidence in stock market investments". Unit linked life business was down 2 per cent last quarter over this time last year from £178 million to £175 million, while unit linked pension business was down 7 per cent from £136 million to £126 million.

Rebates from the social security department to people contracted out of the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps) fell 43 per cent over the quarter from £169 million to £97 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

TI reports rise of 77% in company failures

COMPANY failures are continuing to rise, according to Trade Indemnity (TI). The credit insurance group recorded 2,100 business failures in the third quarter of the year, 7 per cent higher than the second quarter, and 77 per cent more than the same period last year. TI says any upturn in economic activity is unlikely until the first quarter of next year and it forecasts no significant fall in the figures for another 18 months.

Three of the seven sectors in the survey — chemicals, textiles and services — showed a fall in insolvencies between the second and third quarters. Engineering, however, saw a 30 per cent rise to 499 failures while building and construction remains the worst sector with 606.

BP swaps N Sea stake

BP EXPLORATION has swapped its 51 per cent share of the three blocks covering the Angus field in the North Sea for Amerada Hess's 11.33 per cent stake in the undeveloped Ross field.

Amerada, operator of Angus, with an existing 42.92 per cent interest, thus emerges with 93.92 per cent of the 7.5 million barrel field, with Premier Consolidated Oilfields holding the balance. Annex B approval to develop the Angus field was granted yesterday. The first oil is expected next month.

ASB board changes

LAWRENCE Barnett, chairman of ASB Barnett Kinnings, the accountancy and executive selection consultancy, and Bob Holt, chief executive, have resigned. Alan Greenough, a former Duxon chief executive, will take over both roles.

ASB, which also reported a cut in interim pre-tax losses from £78,000 to £35,000 in the six months to end-June, is raising £775,000 via a placing and open offer of new shares on a two-for-one basis at 5p each. Existing shares fell 2p to 9p.

Danka raises payout

A CONFIDENTIAL trading statement accompanied interim figures to September 30 from Danka Business Systems, the London-quoted American business equipment supplier. Pre-tax profits rose from £4.65 million to £5.28 million.

Mark Vaughan-Lee, chairman, said subsequent trading had been up on the equivalent first-half period, and recession seemed to be lessening. The interim dividend goes up from 1p to 1.25p.

Anglo Irish rises 6%

A RISE in bad debts has failed to halt the growth of Anglo Irish Bank, the small Dublin bank, which increased profits by 6 per cent to £56.52 million (£6 million) in the year to end-September.

Most of the growth came from the Irish operations. Overall, the bank's assets grew by 33 per cent to £1,765 million. The final dividend is being held at 10p a share, to make 1s.36p for the year.

Morgan buys in US

MORGAN Crucible, as reported in *The Times* on October 28, has bought three companies in America for a total of \$55.4 million.

They are Wesco, which serves the electrical and aerospace industries, for \$39 million; Carbon Technologies of Rhode Island, manufacturer of carbon and graphite components, for \$10.1 million; and Fulmer Company of Pennsylvania, maker of carbon brush holders, for \$6.3 million.

ABF profit rise fails to prevent price fall

By OUR CITY STAFF

ASSOCIATED British Foods, the milling and baking group, increased profits from £304.8 million before tax to £332.4 million in the 12 months to September 30.

Trading profits were unexpectedly poor, however, and ABF's shares slipped from 455p to 439p.

British Sugar, acquired from Brierford International in January, made a maiden contribution of £98.3 million to trading profits of £243.4 million. Analysts said trading profits were £25 million below

forecasts, but the shortfall was offset by net investment income of £89 million. Garry Weston, chairman, said margins in the British bakery operation remained under pressure because of sharp competition in a weak market.

For the extended 18-month period to September 14, ABF's pre-tax profit was £464.7 million. There is a third interim dividend of 4.5p a share, making 16.7p for the 18 months.

The Canadian franchise was announced alongside pre-tax earnings for the nine months to end September of \$33

SeaCon lifts ferry traffic share

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE introduction of SeaCat wave-piercing catamarans has enabled Sea Containers to lift its share of cross-Channel ferry traffic from Dover to Boulogne and Calais from 15 to 19 per cent since July, the company said yesterday.

The group, based in Bermuda and headed by James Sherwood, has won a franchise from the government of British Columbia, Canada, to operate a SeaCat service between Seattle and Victoria starting next year.

The Canadian franchise was announced alongside pre-tax earnings for the nine months to end September of \$33

million. Last year, Sea Containers' earnings during the same period amounted to \$343 million, but the result was bolstered by \$290 million of profits on the sale of some ferry services to Stena of Sweden and part of the container business to Tiphook.

Talks over increased co-operation with the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, where Sea Containers owns 41 per cent, are continuing under a stand-still agreement which expires on January 23. Sea Containers said it may be prepared not to renew its takeover bid if the outcome is satisfactory.



Sherwood: Canadian deal

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American market fall hits profits at Sedgwick Group

By NEIL BENNETT

THE worsening recession in the American insurance market and a weak dollar have caused another profit fall at Sedgwick Group, Britain's largest insurance broker.

Pre-tax profits in the nine months to the end of September fell by £4.5 million to £74 million due to a 3 per cent fall in revenue to £516 million. The fall in the dollar reduced profits by £5.6 million. At constant exchange rates, profits would have increased by 2 per cent. There is, as usual, no third-quarter dividend.

The main reason for the group's poor performance was a sharp fall in insurance rates in America. Stuart Tarrant, the finance director, said that commercial casualty and property rates fell by between 5 per cent and 10 per cent during the quarter while many commentators had expected a modest improvement.

Mr Tarrant said that other large insurance brokers had also suffered during the period. "Leading underwriters are still pricing their products too low and are experiencing underwriting losses. There are

Dunhill interims slip

By OUR CITY STAFF

DUNHILL Holdings, the luxury goods group 56 per cent owned by Rothmans International, is raising its interim dividend despite its first profit setback in ten years.

Lord Dore, chairman, said the company had performed well in the six months to September 30, in view of the Gulf war and recession. The balance sheet remained strong. The dividend rises from 2.5p to 2.75p a share, though pre-tax profits fell

from £33.6 million to £30.4 million, cutting net earnings from 12.5p to 11.5p a share. Interests received on cash balances was higher but remained undisclosed at the interim stage. Turnover was £115.8 million (£118.6 million).

Dunhill shares fell 22p to 487p.

The shares of Rothmans International, which announces its own interim results Thursday, fell 21p to 142p.

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UniChem to supply Savory and Moore

By MARTIN BARROW

UNICHEM, the drugs wholesaler, has been named as the principal supplier to MacCarthy's Savory and Moore chemists' chain. UniChem succeeds Medicopharma, of Sweden, which withdrew from the British market this month.

The appointment of UniChem, after a competitive tender, complicates the task of the monopolies commission, which is investigating the potential impact of takeover bids by UniChem and Lloyds Chemists for MacCarthy on the wholesale supply of ethical pharmaceutical products.

UniChem's success was also seen as a setback for AAH Holdings, its chief competitor, which secured much of Savory and Moore's business on an interim basis when Medicopharma left Britain. AAH shares fell 4p to 468p, while UniChem fell 1p to 183p.

of MacCarthy, said: "We have used a number of suppliers since the demise of Medicopharma and have taken prompt action to put a formal arrangement in place. UniChem is a competitive and sound source of supply and our relationship will bring immediate and considerable added value to the group's operations. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed but the business is estimated to be worth £40 million a year. The decision poses problems for the monopolies commission, which has until mid-January to decide whether to allow UniChem to renew its £75 million bid for MacCarthy. The commission is also investigating an £80 million bid from Lloyds Chemists. A third bid by Grampian Holdings, cleared by the trade department, was later rejected by shareholders.

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SG Warburg boosted by surge in UK cash calls

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE flood of rights issues from British companies and the rise in world stock markets this summer were a fillip for SG Warburg, the merchant bank. Pre-tax profits rose by 34 per cent to £89 million in the half-year to September 30, after transfers to inner reserves.

Mercury Asset Management, Warburg's 75 per cent-owned investment management subsidiary, achieved a record pre-tax profit of £34 million, 35 per cent up, after the successful launch of its Japanese investment trust operation.

As a result, Warburg is increasing its interim dividend by 0.75p to 5.25p, while MAM's half-year payout rises 30 per cent to 6.5p.

Lord Cairns, Warburg's new chief executive, said the results were a lead indicator of economic recovery. "A combination of receptive markets together with problems thrown up by the recession has allowed us to offer financial solutions to our clients," he said.

During the six months, Warburg advised on rights issues worth £3.5 billion, 55 per cent of the total raised.

during the period. Customers included J Sainsbury, Granada, P&O and Argill.

Warburg's large foreign and acquisitions team worked on 33 deals worth £6.8 billion during the half year. These included the flotation of Irish Life in Ireland, the privatisation of Thai International Airways and Poland's privatisation programme. Recently, the bank has been advising Hawker Siddeley on its defence against BTR's £1.5 billion bid. Profits also rose in the bank's equity and money market trading departments.

In the second half, Warburg's figures will be dominated by the government's £5 billion sale of BT shares, where it is acting as both adviser and global co-ordinator.

In the past year, MAM has sold ten bond funds in Japan, worth £900 million, after winning an investment trust licence. That contributed to a 9 per cent rise in funds under management to more than £40 billion. The asset manager's shares have quadrupled in price since they were floated four years ago.

Comment, page 25

Clowes became 'marked man'

By OUR CITY STAFF

PETER Clowes, the former investment chief, was convinced he had become a "marked man" and that the City establishment had "got its knife into him" after he gave prosecution evidence in a trial, an Old Bailey jury heard.

Anthony Hacking, QC, representing Mr Clowes on the first day of defence, said that "within days" of the Securities and Investments Board getting the necessary powers under the Financial Services Act, the establishment moved to close his companies down. He said the 1985 Old Bailey trial involved the collapse of a firm.

On that occasion, Mr Clowes, appearing as a Crown witness, said the City practice of "stock lending" was a "grey area". The defendants in the case were eventually acquitted. Yesterday, Mr Hacking said: "Yesterday, Mr Clowes believed, rightly or wrongly,

that he became a marked man in the City and that his face and name were on the wall of the City establishment. "had got its knife into him".

Mr Clowes, aged 50, of Whinney Green, Wilmslow, Cheshire, denies nine charges under the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958. Eight charges relate to alleged false statements to induce investment in named individual, with involving sums up to £400,000. On the ninth, Mr Clowes is jointly charged with Peter Naylor, aged 35, of Sand, Surrey, and Guy von Cramer, aged 29, of Micklethwaite near Bradford, West Yorkshire.

They have pleaded not guilty to conspiring between October 1, 1983, and November 25, 1987, to induce members of the public to enter investment schemes by making "misleading, false or deceptive" statements or promises.

The three men, with Christopher Newman, aged 37, a chartered accountant from Polstead, Suffolk, also variously deny a total of 11 theft charges involving nearly £17 million belonging to investors.

Mr Hacking said that whenever any of the thousands of investors, who entrusted their savings to Mr Clowes's investment schemes, wanted to withdraw their money, they were able to do so without any problems. They also received their monthly cheques regularly as promised.



Clowes: "face did not fit"

The trial continues today.

Emap falls 28% after ads slump

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

EMAP, the publishing group whose titles include *Smash Hits*, *Q* and *More*, saw employment advertising in its newspapers drop by 50 per cent in the first half. The recession has led to a fall in interim pre-tax profits but Emap believes the worst is over. It is looking to a gradual recovery next spring.

A strong performance from the group's consumer magazines was unable to counter poor results from other divisions and pre-tax profits for the six months to end-September fell 27.7 per cent to £9.86 million on sales of £124 million, down 6 per cent. Earnings per share fell 26 per cent to 4.5p. The interim dividend is up 5 per cent, at 2p.

Consumer magazines, which make up the bulk of the group's profits, lifted operating profits by 9 per cent to £9.45 million. This division derives 60 per cent of its revenue from cover price and is not as vulnerable to the downturn in advertising as other parts of the group. In addition to the increase in cover prices, titles such as the teenage magazine *Big*, the film magazine *Empire* and *Choice*, the magazine for retired

people, have seen a rapid growth in circulation.

The newspaper and printing division saw profits fall by 37 per cent to £3.94 million although cost cutting helped to mitigate a 14 per cent fall in advertising revenue, including the 50 per cent drop in employment advertising.

The group's business magazines saw advertising revenue drop 18 per cent, leading to a fall in profits of 54 per cent to £108,000. The exhibitions division made a loss of £1.47 million, compared with a £57,000 profit and the radio interests, stake in Kiss FM, per cent stake in Kiss FM, made a £38,000 profit, compared with a £99,000 loss.

Some £32 million was spent in the first half on acquisitions, including the magazines *Car*, *New Woman*, *Kerrang!* and *Select*. Radio City, the Liverpool radio station, was purchased for £10.7 million.

Emap's chairman, Graham Ross-Russell, said he believed the company was at the bottom of the revenue decline and would begin to see some recovery by next spring, although he expected this to be slow.

The shares fell 4p to 254p.

Babcock Group beats recession to halfway £24m

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT

BABCOCK International Group, the process contractor and heavy engineer chaired by Lord King, is continuing to make headway through the recession by spreading its order book into new markets and taking smaller contracts.

Pre-tax profits rose 10.9 per cent £23.7 million in the six months to end September on turnover up 17.9 per cent to £415 million and earnings increased by 10.7 per cent to 3.32p per share. Babcock shares gained 2½p to 61½p against a falling market.

The interim dividend has been increased 4.2 per cent to 1.25p per share. Lord King said this was intended as a positive signal, reflecting current profits confidence in immediate prospects.

The energy and manufacturing division, centred on the heavily modernised Renfrew factory complex in Scotland, raised profits from £7.2 million to £8.3 million. Turnover was £124 million against £74 million, reflecting work at the Sizewell nuclear station and

the £300 million six-year Drax flue gas desulphurisation contract, now halfway through.

Process plant contracting increased profits from £4.3 million to £5.1 million. Babcock's German operations, now looming larger in expansion plans, raised profits from £1.8 million to £2.4 million. African operations produced slightly lower profits of £5 million and the Rosyth dockyard management contract delivered profits of £4.2 million, against £4.9 million.

Babcock has made several modest acquisitions in water engineering, railway carriage refurbishment and materials handling machinery, which Oliver Whitehead, chief executive, said was to spread its markets. Further purchases are likely, partly to increase the 20 per cent of the business now in manufacturing.

Orders are slightly down at about £700 million, enough to keep Germany fully occupied next year and Renfrew 60 per cent occupied, but are now typically about £2.5 million.

Scapa bids for Sweden's Scandiafelt

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

SCAPA Group, which produces specialist fabrics for the paper and packaging industries, has launched a takeover bid for Scandiafelt, a Swedish company, for Kr370 million (£34.9 million).

The offer has already been accepted by shareholders with 61 per cent of Scandiafelt's stock but is conditional on acceptance by at least 90 per cent and on approval by the Swedish authorities.

Scapa proposes to fund the acquisition from cash reserves. It raised £55.6 million in May through a rights issue. Scandiafelt would be Scapa's second big purchase this year. In August it bought Hewitt Machine, of America, for about \$20 million.

The offer is also conditional on the sale of some of Scandiafelt's businesses, including the metalworking division and various property interests.

Scandiafelt is quoted on the over-the-counter market in Stockholm and produces engineered fabrics for the paper industry. Last year, it made pre-tax profit of Kr27 million on sales of Kr540.9 million.



Moving into new market areas: Lord King and Oliver Whitehead yesterday

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Fellow Traveller,

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Well, we listened and what we did seems to have paid off.

Virgin Atlantic have won numerous awards over the years. We've been named 'Best Business Class' for four years running by Business Traveller Magazine and 'Airlines of the Year' and 'Best Business Class in the World' by Executive Travel, to name but a few.

All this success however hasn't gone to our heads.

We still constantly strive to provide the business traveller with a Business Class service that is better than most airlines' First Class.

Upper Class has more on-board space than any other Business Class, coupled with First Class Sleeper Seats that allow you to stretch out and relax in comfort. There's even an on-board bar and lounge.

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In fact I'm so confident that Upper Class is the best Business Class in the world that I'm prepared to offer you this unique pledge. If, after flying Upper Class for the first time you feel another airline offers a better Business Class package, Virgin Atlantic will fly you back free.

I look forward to seeing you on-board in the near future.

Best wishes,

Richard Branson
Richard Branson

Heathrow House, High Street, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1DQ.

These days few things are worth the paper they're written on. Here's the exception. The Virgin Atlantic Upper Class pledge. Its purpose is to put our belief in Upper Class to the test.

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With our success in recent awards it's no wonder that we're confident enough to say that once you try us you won't want to fly any other Business Class.

If however, after flying with us for the first time you feel another airline offers a better Business Class package, Virgin Atlantic will fly you back free. Remember this offer only applies if you book a return trip and it's your first time in Upper Class.

Fly Upper Class to the USA or Japan before the end of the year and we think you'll agree, our words are more than mere pie in the sky.

For full information about this unique pledge and Upper Class you can register your interest and make reservations by calling 0800 747 747.



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Chamberlin & Hill falls to £581,000

Chamberlin & Hill, the iron castings to switchgear group, saw pre-tax profits fall from £876,000 to £581,000 in the six months to end-September. Turnover fell from £9.47 million to £9.04 million. Earnings per share fell from 8.11p to 5.44p and the interim dividend has been held at 1.75p. The shares were unchanged at 95p.

Trust advances

British Empire Securities Trust's net asset value rose from 52.53p a share to 64.54p in the year to end-October. Pretax profits were £1.8 million, against £1.5 million. The final dividend is 0.61p, making 0.86p for the year, against 0.78p a share.

Dividend rises

Glasgow Income Trust raised its net asset value from 37.64p a share to 46.96p in the year to end-September 1991, and lifted pretax profits from £1.2 million to £1.3 million. The final dividend is 1.4p, making 3.2p for the year, against 3.15p.

Asset value up

The net asset value of F&C Eurotrust rose from 137.3p a share to 158.8p in the year to end-September. Pretax profits went from £1.2 million to £1.4 million. The dividend rises from 1.12p a share to 1.18p.

Oglesby ahead

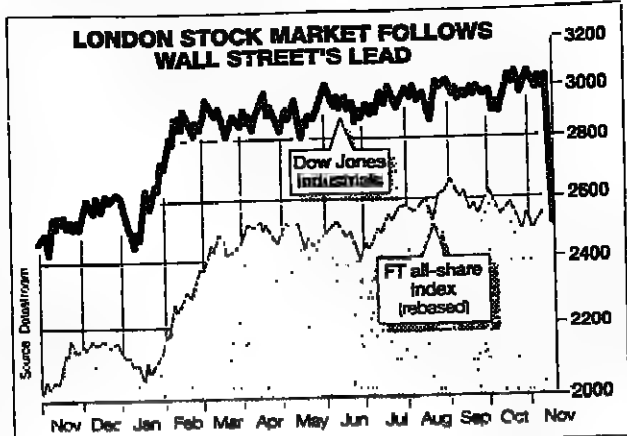
Oglesby & Butler Group, the Irish manufacturer of soldering irons, lifted taxable profits from £111,000 (£10,138) to £164,000 in the half-year to end-September. There is again no interim dividend.

MTM buys

MTM, the specialist chemicals group, is buying John Ross (Chemicals) for £2.5 million.

STOCK MARKET

Early markdown deters sellers and checks the rate of descent



THE rout that had been widely forecast for share prices in London, following Friday's 120-point collapse in the Dow Jones average, turned out instead to be an orderly retreat.

Dealers in London once again kept their heads, while those in New York and Tokyo seemed on the verge of losing theirs. As in the case of both the 1987 and 1989 crashes, the sudden collapse in share values on Wall Street occurred in late trading on Friday, giving traders in London the weekend to ponder events and work out a strategy.

Once again market-makers took the initiative, deciding that a short, sharp shock was the best strategy by marking prices savagely lower to deter sellers and limit the damage longer term. Once again, it has paid dividends. The FT-SE 100 index almost halved an

agers hoping to take advantage of the dramatic falls.

London has not seen the kind of recent support enjoyed by Wall Street, leaving investors with few profits left to take.

Government securities attracted selective support closing with gains of 2 1/4 at the longer end of the market despite fading hopes for an early cut in bank base rates.

Leading companies with international links bore the brunt of the markdown. Those with big dollar earnings and American shareholders were particularly vulnerable. Falls occurred in Glaxo 51p to 79.5p, ICI 10p to £12.08, after £11.75, Reuters 29p to 87.4p, and Grand Met 22p to 83.9p.

British Telecom fell 7p to 357p. Brokers felt the setback for the shares was unlikely to make much difference to the government's sell-off of part of its remaining stake. The issue has still to be priced and this will not be completed until after foreign investors have tendered for stock at the

end of the month. The privatisation stocks were marked lower but attracted buyers at the lower levels.

Of the water companies, Anglia fell 11p to 360p, Northumbria 5p to 373p, North West 11p to 352p, Severn Trent 9p to 322p, Southern 8p to 318p, South West 9p to 322p, Thames 10p to 345p, Welsh 7p to 374p, Wessex 9p to 387p, and Yorkshire 10p to 365p.

The electricity companies closed above their worst levels. Eastern eased 1p to 241p, East Midlands 4p to 243p, London 4p to 242p, Midlands 6p to 251p, Northern 5p to 250p, North Wales 8p to 245p, South Wales 8p to 303p, South Western 5p to 245p, and Yorkshire 5p to 285p. National Power closed 2p down at 148p, PowerGen 2 1/2p to 155 1/2p, Scottish Hydro 1p to 104p, and Scottish Power 1p to 101p.

The latest retail sales data disappointed and caused further anxiety about the econ-

omy. Spending fell by 0.5 per cent in October, with most analysts forecasting a rise.

The fall also hit the retailers, some of which have recently reported signs of a pick-up in spending. Argos fell 6p to 313p, Laura Ashley 4p to 97p, Dixons 12p to 225p, Kingfisher 10p to 438p, Marks and Spencer 3p to 291p, John Menzies 7p to 435p, Next 2 1/2p to 62p, Raters 2p to 47p, WH Smith A 8p to 473p, Storehouse 5p to 95p, Style 6p to 201p and Great Universal Stores A 10p to £12.63.

The retail sales figures also showed a surprise drop in sales of food and drink. This left Asda 3p lower at 40p, Argill 11p at 266p, Kwik Save 13p at 557p, J Sainsbury 12p at 335p and Tesco 5p at 221p.

Associated British Foods failed to make much impression with figures for an 18-month period. Pre-tax profits on an adjusted basis were up from £304.8 million to £332.4 million. Shareholders' funds were reduced by writedowns relating to Berisford International and British Sugar.

There were few gains among the top 100 companies. BAA, the independent airport operator, recovered an early fall

to finish 18p better at 472p after reporting a dip in half-year pre-tax profits of £54 million to £151 million.

Details of the new pricing policy laid down by the Civil Aviation Authority revived the share price. The policy dictates how much the airports can charge the airlines for the use of their facilities, and turned out to be less restrictive than most City experts had anticipated.

Another gain came from BET, the industrial services group, although half-year figures made grim reading with pre-tax profits dropping from £137.2 million to £23.7 million following a series of hefty provisions. The City had feared worse. After touching 195p, the price later rallied to close 5p ahead at 212p.

British Airways, which reported last week and announced it was on the road to recovery, slipped 2p to 215p.

SC Warburg, the merchant bank and securities house, touched 542p before recovering to close a net 9p lower on the day at 534p after a strong first-half performance. Pre-tax profits were £22.7 million ahead at £89 million, attributed to a pick-up in stock-market and corporate activity. Mercury Asset Management, its fund management arm, fell 8p to 905p after reporting a rise in pre-tax profits at the half-way stage of £8.8 million at £34 million.

Babcock International, the engineer, firmed 1p to 60p after a rise of £2.4 million in interim pre-tax profits to £23.7 million and a maintained dividend.

MICHAEL CLARK

TEMPUS

Market relief as BAA puts the worst behind it

BAA yesterday cut its interim figures to the bone with hefty above-the-line provisions but ended the day with increased year-end forecasts. The market's relief, which sent the shares from 454p to 476p, stemmed from the Civil Aviation Authority's revised price formula - which analysts saw as a coup and BAA saw as a platform for growth.

BAA's headline pre-tax figure for the six months to September 30 was £151 million against £205 million, on revenues that were 4.7 per cent higher at £514 million. The interim setback included, however, a £30.5 million provision against property assets and £24 million for redundancy costs. Another £5 mil-

lion in the second half for redundancy is likely. The half-time results also bear £28 million of interest charges. There were no interest or redundancy charges a year ago.

BAA's underlying performance at £233.5 million (£223.5 million) thus engendered a sigh of relief that things were not as bad as they had seemed: the increase in the interim dividend from 5.25p to 5.75p also helped.

BAA has taken £20 million out of its annual overheads bill, the benefits of which will be evident in two years, expects annual traffic growth to improve as the Gulf war effect diminishes and aims to clip gearing from 60 per cent

to 50 per cent by the year-end. Though airport charges, at 51 per cent, still represent the bulk of operational income, which totalled £514.3 million, the commercial element of BAA's profits is likely to increase.

If the worst is already past, underlying income of £279.5 million against £286.7 million is possible in the year to March 31, while pre-tax profits of £225 million against £247 million would not be as low as some had feared. On a prospective p/e of 13.9, the shares should be held.

BET

JOHN Clark is following the classic business textbook in turning round BET, including the advanced editions that feature tax dodges to minimise the impact of reorganisation on reported profits.

So the emphasis is on cash generation, the core business, tighter control of working capital and cutting unnecessary layers of management, along with new blood.

BET's 48 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits to £71.5 million would have looked far worse but for the decision to take a £90 million



Clark: classic at BET

provision to cover losses on the implementation of a strategic review below the line. Mr Clark's rationale, that the profit from the sale of the Biffa waste management business was taken as an extraordinary item, will cut little ice with accountants, and it takes the shine off the new management's genuine achievements.

These include year-on-year debt reductions from £617.5 million to £203.5 million, helped by the £212 million sell-off of Biffa, and a remarkable £186 million swing over the same period in net operating cash flow, despite maintaining the interim dividend, which took the total

do much to excite. A solid hold.

On the fair assumption that the total dividend is held, the shares yield a generous 8.4 per cent, which helps to explain BET's 5p rise to 212p in yesterday's markets. £160 million looks achievable this year, putting the shares on a future earnings multiple of 15. Doubters rightly question the rate of recovery thereafter, however, given the tight control on spending being exerted in businesses that will need cash if they are to expand out of recession.

ABF

CHARTING the progress of Associated British Foods is not easy, not least because of the company's enigmatic approach to making relationships with investment analysts.

This time, not only must investors contend with a change of year end; there is also the maiden contribution from British Sugar, which has dramatically reshaped the group.

On the one hand, it has added a cash-generative business and reduced ABF's dependence on the cyclical milling and bread market; on

the other hand, the £880 million purchase made substantial inroads into the legendary cash mountain, clipping back investment income.

The company provides figures for the 12 months to mid-September, its new year end, but no comparable results for the previous year. Trading profits of £243.4 million look less impressive without British Sugar's input of £98.3 million and would actually have been £15 million lower than in the last full financial year.

Net investment income of £89 million was higher than expected, but by this time next year, when lower interest rates take their toll on reduced cash balances of between £300 million and £400 million, the picture may not look so solid.

That said, ABF has done well to minimise any loss in margins in a bread market where zero inflation is the norm and volume growth is history. It is clear to see why British Sugar, where margin enhancement is more likely, was such a prized target. Forecast profits of £345 million this year and earnings of 51.1p leave the shares on a prospective multiple of 8.6. Understanding for the sector but the company is unlikely to

WALL STREET

Dow struggles in morning dealings

New York - Shares struggled to firmer ground but investors, still shaky after Friday's late dive, continued to shun the broad market. The Dow Jones industrial average stood 6.26 points up, at 2,949.46, by late morning. Declining shares led advancing shares by more than two to one.

Samuel Hallowell, at Van Lieu Capital, said: "I suspect the market will churn, moving positive to negative. The Dow is strong but the vast majority of securities are down."

□ Hong Kong - Shares plunged 120 points but recovered later. The Hang Seng index closed 73.13 points down at 4,198.21. Turnover was HK\$2.51 billion (£183 million).

□ Tokyo - Shares moved sharply lower and the 225-share Nikkei average closed down 699.06 points, or 2.9 per cent, at 23,400.12. Yuichi Matsushita, of Nikko Securities, said: "Everything was based on the bad news on Wall Street. There was some arbitrage and index buying while the market declined."

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COMMENT

No crash but no smiles at home

A potential stock market crash, the reaction to Friday's sudden 4 per cent fall in Wall Street share prices has so far been routine. In Tokyo, shares dropped 3.2 per cent. As the global day's trading spread west, the reaction was muted, continental Europe shedding 2.3 per cent and London 1.7 per cent, ending near the day's best as Wall Street came back without any sign of panic. Price movements in London were driven not by sellers but by the market-makers. They acted first to protect themselves and then to stimulate trading by real investors, who failed to appear in great numbers.

Sharp movements in one centre, especially New York, always invoke fears of a repeat of 1987, if not 1929. Big investors, who deal most, have since learned the difference between a "break" of international significance and a national market fall stemming from home events. In November 1991, there is no international imbalance of conflicting financial forces. America's tepid economic recovery is under threat and, although this may not have triggered Friday's technically based fall on Wall Street, the fear may yet lead to further weakness. For the rest of the world, America's tardy recovery will weaken economic recovery next year, as falling forecasts from the OECD suggested last week. For the dollar to fall against the yen and open further daylight for interest rate cuts, does not generally cut across the grain. The exception to this, via the ERM, is Britain.

Had London's markets not been pre-occupied with the global Mexican share price wave, they might have paid more attention to the retail sales figures, which might have justified half the fall. The missing link from economic recovery has been a return of consumer confidence expressed in high street spending. The sales statistic was expected to confirm anecdotal evidence of recovery with a useful rise in October sales. Instead they fell, quarterly sales are still falling and business is no better than in the dark days of a year ago. The trend is in the right direction, but there is no sign of recovery.

The dollar's weakness seems to remove one answer to this further cut in interest rates. The dollar fell mostly against the mark, pushing sterling below DM2.89 at the bottom of the ERM league. There was a theory that, under the ERM system, this helped an interest rate cut by lessening the risk of a further fall in the pound. This was based on the tactics employed by the French government. Unfortunately, the French found it did not work and have had to raise interest rates. This is bad news for Norman Lamont.

Invest in us

Shareholders in Mercury Asset Management are being offered the fruits of success. The investment manager is proposing a three-for-two capitalisation issue to reduce its share price and improve liquidity, highlighting the superb performance of its shares since they were floated in 1987. Shareholders have seen their investment quadruple, from 225p a share to more than £9 in the past four years. Little wonder that SG Warburg, the merchant bank, has held on to its 75 per cent stake. The rise has been founded on the group's growth. Assets under management have expanded from £23 billion in 1988 to more than £40 billion. Profits have grown 44 per cent to £56.4 million, despite the volatility of equity markets, and dividends have more than doubled.

Sadly, MAM's clients can only dream of returns like these, but the company has combined reasonable performance with strong marketing to attract a stream of new clients. The latest arrivals are Japanese private investors who have already bought £900 million of MAM's international bond funds. Having tapped this vast market, MAM's future could be just as exciting, if not the progress of its shares.

Bush shows way forward across Gatt's great divide

US concessions in the Gatt talks could end the deadlock.

Colin Narbrough

looks at the outstanding issues

The fears about America's recovery that contributed to Friday's falls on Wall Street are the same concerns that prompted President Bush to intervene personally the previous week-end to try to unblock the Uruguay Round negotiations on free world trade by making a striking concession over agriculture. The Bush administration knows America needs to give the right signals on trade immediately, if it wants to have any confidence in its climb out of recession.

A deadline at the end of this year was agreed by the Group of Seven leaders at the London summit in July. That might prove difficult to achieve, given the technical and political complexity of the sub-agreements being sought.

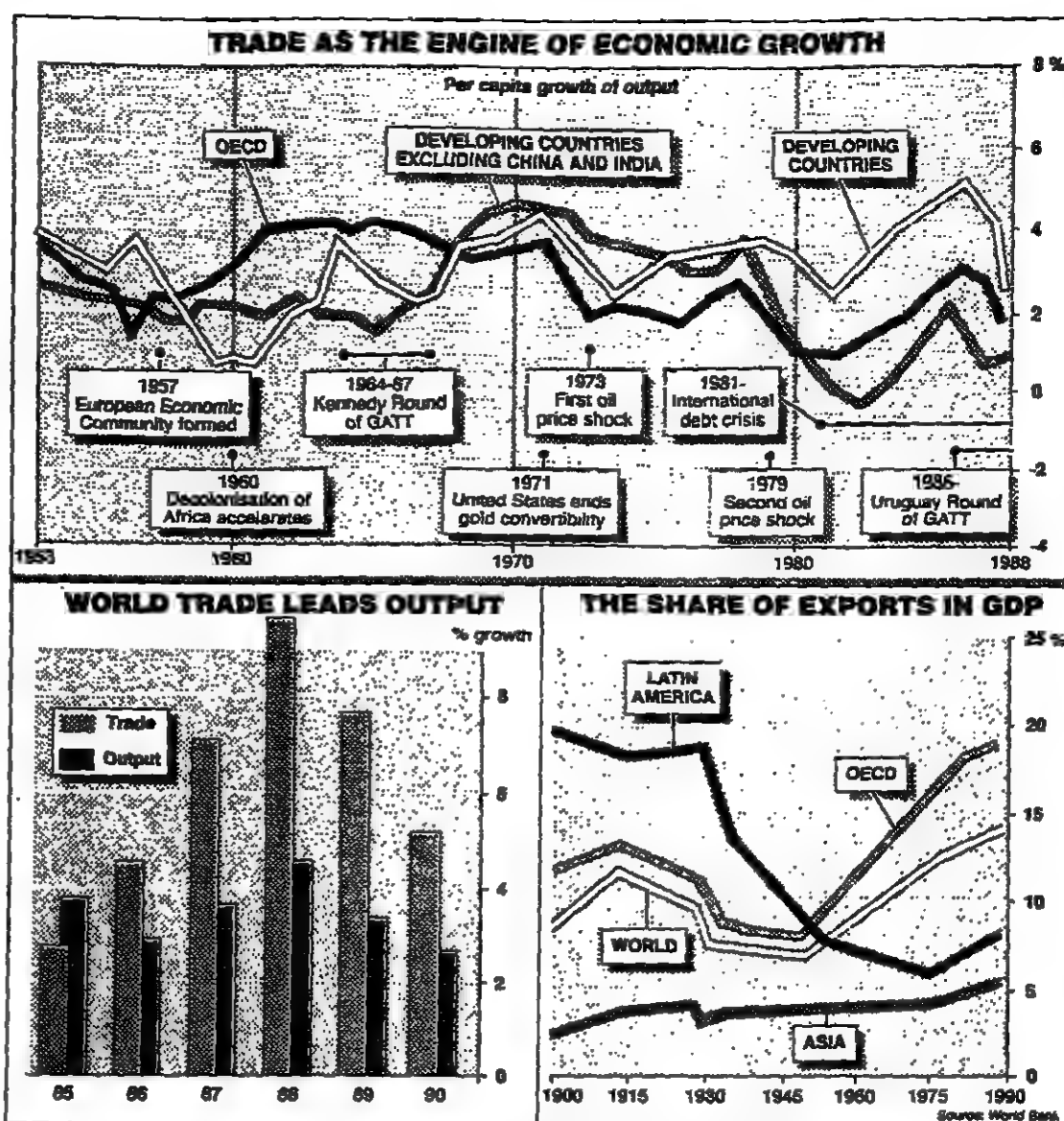
Until Gatt embarked on the Uruguay round, his successes had primarily been in liberalising international trade in manufactured goods. The present round is seeking to take in areas of economic activity hitherto outside Gatt's scope.

Gatt expects growth in world merchandise trade to continue to moderate this year after slowing to 5 per cent last year. This tracks the deceleration in output growth, estimated to have eased to 3 per cent last year, from 4 per cent in 1989. Gatt has sought to counter the protectionist lobbies that flourish in a climate of recession. A repeat of its failure in December last year to reach an agreement by its original end-1990 deadline would create uncertainty far greater than the events of the Gulf. Some trade experts already talk of the risk of another Thirties-style depression.

Arthur Dunkel, the Swiss director general of Gatt, has praised the heightened urgency with which key players are addressing the work on an agreement. He sees a new commitment to settle this year. Mr Bush's meeting on November 9 with Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, and Rud Lubbers, the prime minister of The Netherlands, current Community president at The Hague, has done much to make the usually cautious Mr Dunkel more optimistic.

The focus at the meeting in The Hague was on how deep and broad the reduction of farm subsidies are to be. The Americans are understood to have reduced their demand for cuts to 30-35 per cent from their original demand for reductions of 75-90 per cent. Transatlantic differences in this area have been the main obstacle to agreement.

The Cairns Group, comprising 14 leading agricultural exporters led by Australia, has been disappointed by



the move America, its erstwhile ally in the farm subsidy dispute, but Washington's shift of allegiance at this stage could be crucial.

Differences have been narrowed at the political level on the farm support issue and negotiators at the Geneva talks have been instructed to move urgently to iron out the remaining difficulties.

Serious problems remain, however. Japan is using the negotiations to ensure it is safeguarded against bilateral actions by the Americans. Among the developing nations, Brazil has probably been the most vociferous in defence of its interests, clashing openly with the developed world nations over intellectual property. The poor nations want to ensure access for their farm produce and textiles to the rich countries without being swamped by the legal and financial muscle of the industrialised world's services.

Mr Dunkel wants draft texts of an agreement by November 30 to allow time before the year end deadline for work on the details of tariff concessions and commitments to free trade in services and other areas. He has identified the negotiating areas in which "substantial breakthroughs" are needed: Agriculture. The Gatt talks re-

quire a binding agreement between governments on the reduction of domestic supports that distort trade. Policies causing minimal distortion will be allowed under a special exclusion, or "green box" arrangement, the scope of which has to be agreed. Import quotas and other non-tariff restraints will have to be converted into tariffs, and then lowered, a process dubbed "tariffication". It has to be decided whether tariffication will affect all farm products, whether minimum market access is allowed for certain goods, and at what level governments could apply safeguards against certain imports.

Services. A general agreement must be based on three key elements: government commitments to liberalising trade, a framework accord and special arrangements for sensitive areas. The important inter-relationships between the three elements must be resolved. Intellectual property. Decisions must be made on standards for protecting rights, enforcement rules, patent principles, protection for computer programs, rental rights and geographical appellations. Textiles. Agreement must be reached on how to dismantle the Multi-Fibre Arrangement, the import quota-based system that governs present textile trade, and how

its rules apply to non-member countries during the phase-out period.

Market access. Recognition has to be given to progress in liberalisation made unilaterally since the start of the Uruguay round. Agreement on agriculture and textiles should allow negotiation about concessions on tariffs and non-tariff barriers. Agreements can be made under bilateral arrangements, or in negotiations between groups of countries. Offers of tariff reductions must be improved and confirmed. The target reduction is one third. Binding commitments must also be given not to reimpose tariffs.

Rule-making. Many outstanding issues require a compromise between reforms, strengthening of anti-dumping rules and the desire for new provisions to address practices such as "screwdriver" assembly plants, perceived to undermine effective enforcement. The question of special allowance for subsidies in developing countries must also be agreed.

Mr Dunkel's stock-taking exercise puts the ball firmly in the politicians' court. Mr Bush's bold first move is encouraging. The European Community would do the world economy, and its member states, a giant service by following the American lead.

Green grow the profits

Green investment is a difficult concept. James Capel, the broker, compiles a "green" portfolio of companies that benefit from investment designed to address environmental concerns, or which lead their industries in recycling. Now in its third year, Capel's tracking study suggests that the Confederation of British Industry was shrewd to make business and the environment the central theme of its conference this autumn.

Comparisons for the James Capel Green Book, published last week, were completed on October 18, so they are unadjusted for yesterday's slide in share prices. However, there is no reason to believe a market readjustment will alter the relative outperformance of shares in environmentally friendly companies.

By late October, James Capel's green index of 30 quoted companies committed to environmental responsibility had risen by 28.1 per cent since January, compared with a 20.4 per cent gain by the FT-SE 100 index. This is a reversal of 1990, when the green index underperformed.

About 10 per cent of all investment in the British equity market is estimated to go through some degree of ethical or environmental screening, including 27 per cent of local authority investment money.

However, according to the James Capel Green Book, the 35 per cent premium at which environmental companies used to trade has been whittled away. "The days are passed when the average green share could rely upon a better than average market rating purely by dint of its environmental awareness," says Roger Hardman, the editor.

The green index includes companies from a wide variety of sectors. Among them are Atwoods, Body Shop, Geest, Johnson Matthey, Simon Engineering and Severn Trent. The index trades at 13.4 times historic earnings, just below the market average. Capel predicts that its growth will be ahead of the market this year and match it over the next two years.

An even better performer was the small green index, which has put on 62.9 per cent this year. This index has beaten the Footsie since it began in January 1988, despite the dismal performance of smaller company shares generally since then.

Ethical investment funds in Britain amount to little more than £350 million - not enough to move share prices across a broad spread of investments. The engine of green growth is the huge environmental clean-up unleashed by privatisation of Britain's utilities and tougher European Community standards.

Companies which can cash in on environmental investment are exceptional in being assured of market growth. An economic recovery, however, might wipe the tarnish from less green companies.

JONATHAN PRYNN AND ROSS TIEMAN

BUSINESS LETTERS

Local authorities and BCCI

From Mr John Spence
Sir, In view of the reporting of the current investigations of the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee into the collapse of BCCI, I feel it is necessary to put the record straight.

Local authorities are being accused of "incompetence" and "carelessness" in investing BCCI and therefore suffering losses as a result of its collapse. What the reporting does not make clear is that it is only a minority of authorities involved (about six per cent) and most of them had a relatively small proportion of their total short term cash invested with that one institution. Further more, not a single county council in England and Wales had any money invested with BCCI and typically the prudent, if not stringent, restrictions which such councils impose upon themselves would preclude any investment in the secondary banking sector.

In view of this, therefore, any criticism, fair or unfair, can not be levelled at the county councils. Yours faithfully, JOHN A. SPENCE, Chairman, Finance, Information and Review group.

Losses at Lloyd's

From Mrs M. Wauchope
Sir, Some who have written on Lloyd's losses appear not fully to know the system of membership. Working names, i.e. those who work in the market, have always been encouraged to become members with a show of means well below that required for an outside name.

In the past, before company pensions were popular, this right to join was used by employers for that purpose and to make up wages and to keep

Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent.

From Mr D. F. Atkinson
Sir, The predicament, caused by the mistaken investment of the Highlands and Islands Council in the Bank of Credit and Commerce, is causing distress to ordinary people, who had no control over the decisions of their elected masters. Yet those responsible are still in office and seem likely to suffer no penalty (save, hopefully, public ostracism).

Whilst these people should clearly be punished for bad judgement, surely the rest of us (i.e. the government) should take urgent steps to alleviate the resultant, enforced suffering of the ordinary people affected. Otherwise, what is government for?

It makes a moral nonsense if no action is taken in this case when individuals, motivated solely by greed, are compensated when their investments fail, as in Barlow Clowes.

Yours faithfully, D. F. ATKINSON, 15 The Maltings, High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Called back from the bar

LORD Alexander of Weedon, eloquent chairman of NatWest Bank, always has time for his associates, even when they work for a High Street rival. He was, it seems, happy to pass on helpful advice to Derek Wheatley, QC, chief legal adviser at Lloyd's Bank for 15 years, when he decided to leave the City to return to the Bar in 1989. Two years later, however, Wheatley, in something of an about turn, is returning to the Square Mile, this time as banking consultant to Watson Farley and Williams, a firm of solicitors known for its shipping links. "Bob Alexander helped find me a place at Gray's Inn, but it was not all that easy to pick up the threads after 15 years," says Wheatley, aged 65, who is a long serving member of the Bar Council, and oversaw Lloyd's merger with Abbey Life. He now aims to help his new employer strengthen its banking connections. He should, given such connections, have a head start.

Twin peaks

NOT content with climbing Europe's highest mountain for charity, Neville Shulman, accountant to the stars, hopes accountant to the stream. Gerry Loughrey, a senior fund manager with Kleinwort Benson, is returning to Birmingham, his home town, to manage private client portfolios for recent months, 11 of them Sharp - five years to the day after he left the firm to take up



"I thought we were supposed to liberate this year of year."

last year, yet succeeded in raising £55,000. Now he hopes to raise twice as much by sailing 19,340ft Mount Kilimanjaro and 17,058ft Mount Kenya back to back in the space of just two weeks. "Two mountains are better than one," says Shulman, aged 46, who leaves Britain on December 17. The money raised will go to Music for the World, an environment charity whose patron is Norma Major.

Against the tide

FOLLOWING our story last week that salesmen were defecting en masse from Albert E Sharp, the Birmingham stockbroker, it appears that one City gem has decided to go against the stream. Gerry Loughrey, a senior fund manager with Kleinwort Benson, is returning to Birmingham, his home town, to manage private client portfolios for recent months, 11 of them Sharp - five years to the day after he left the firm to take up

his London post. As many as 15 staff have left Sharp in from the private client side, so Loughrey is likely to be welcomed back with open arms. "City life has been fun, but it will be nice to get back to mushy peas and black pudding," he says.

Builders' mates

SUCH is the plight of those in the building trade, thanks to the recession - which is, according to the builders, still worsening - that, for the first time in its 157-year history, the Chartered Institute of Building is launching a benevolent fund. The institute, which has 33,000 members, all from the managerial end of the profession, is hoping to raise £500,000 "to alleviate hardship because so many of our members are now unemployed". Although the institute has reduced the subscription fee for unemployed members, a record 1,500 people have failed to renew their £110 subscription this year. "I don't know what percentage of our membership is unemployed," says PR director Julian Barlow, "but it must be very high - higher than it has ever been before."

The first fundraising activity is a book comprising a compilation of the silliest answers given by students sitting the institute's examination. Asked to detail the cure for death watch beetle in a roof truss, one student recommended the placing of a tape recording "of the mating call of the death watch beetle close to the wood, which excites the beetle and thus kills it".

CAROL LEONARD

HAWKER SIDDELEY

For Further Information on

Hawker Siddeley's Bid Defence

Telephone
0800 666 600

The Directors of Hawker Siddeley Group Plc. accept responsibility for the information contained in this advertisement. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the Directors (who have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not contain anything likely to affect the import of such information. S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd and Anderson & Sheehy International Limited have approved the contents of this advertisement for the purposes of section 97 of the Financial Services Act 1986.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. The prize money is £4,000 in total. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Share	Gain or Loss
1	Avco Group	Building	1.00
2	Avco Group	Building	1.00
3	Avco Group	Building	1.00
4	Avco Group	Building	1.00
5	Avco Group	Building	1.00
6	Avco Group	Building	1.00
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100	Avco Group	Building	1.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily share for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

The £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mrs June Lloyd of Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

1991 High Low Company Price + - % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1991 High	1991 Low	Company	Price	+ -	%	P/E
111	111	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
112	112	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
113	113	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
114	114	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
115	115	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
116	116	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
117	117	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
118	118	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
119	119	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
120	120	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
121	121	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
122	122	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
123	123	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
124	124	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
125	125	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
126	126	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
127	127	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
128	128	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
129	129	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
130	130	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
131	131	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
132	132	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
133	133	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
134	134	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
135	135	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
136	136	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
137	137	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
138	138	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
139	139	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
140	140	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
141	141	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
142	142	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
143	143	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
144	144	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
145	145	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
146	146	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
147	147	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
148	148	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
149	149	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
150	150	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5

BREWERIES

1991 High	1991 Low	Company	Price	+ -	%	P/E
151	151	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
152	152	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
153	153	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
154	154	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
155	155	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
156	156	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
157	157	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
158	158	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
159	159	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
160	160	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
161	161	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
162	162	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
163	163	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
164	164	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
165	165	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
166	166	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
167	167	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
168	168	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
169	169	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
170	170	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
171	171	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
172	172	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
173	173	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
174	174	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
175	175	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
176	176	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
177	177	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
178	178	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
179	179	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
180	180	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5

BUILDING, ROADS

1991 High	1991 Low	Company	Price	+ -	%	P/E
181	181	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
182	182	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
183	183	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
184	184	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
185	185	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
186	186	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
187	187	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
188	188	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
189	189	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
190	190	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
191	191	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
192	192	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
193	193	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
194	194	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
195	195	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
196	196	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
197	197	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
198	198	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
199	199	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
200	200	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5

Losses restricted

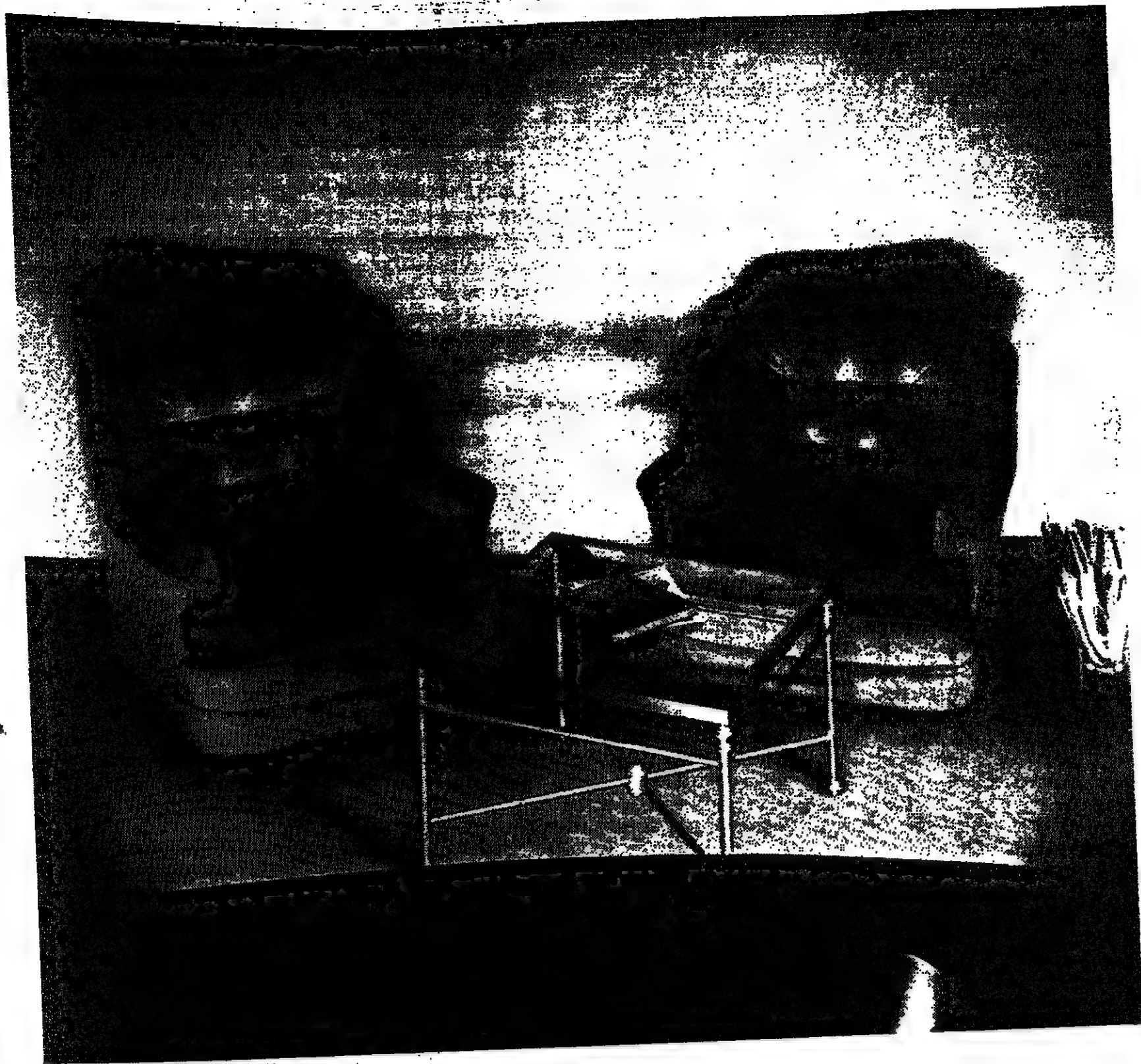
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 11. Dealings end November 22. Contango day November 25. Settlement day December 2. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1991 High Low Company Price + - % P/E

1991 High	1991 Low	Company	Price	+ -	%	P/E
201	201	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
202	202	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
203	203	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
204	204	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
205	205	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
206	206	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
207	207	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
208	208	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
209	209	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
210	210	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
211	211	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
212	212	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
213	213	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
214	214	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
215	215	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
216	216	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
217	217	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
218	218	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
219	219	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5
220	220	Abey Ltd	254	-	9.3	4.5

1991 High Low Company Price + - % P/E

413	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
414	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
415	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
416	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
417	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
418	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
419	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
420	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
421	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
422	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
423	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
424	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
425	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
426	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
427	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
428	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
429	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
430	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
431	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
432	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
433	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
434	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
435	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
436	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
437	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
438	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
439	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
440	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
441	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
442	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
443	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
444	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
445	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
446	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
447	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
448	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
449	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
450	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
451	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
452	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
453	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
454	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
455	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
456	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
457	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
458	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
459	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
460	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
461	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
462	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
463	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
464	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
465	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
466	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
467	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
468	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
469	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
470	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
471	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
472	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
473	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
474	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
475	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
476	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
477	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
478	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
479	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
480	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
481	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
482	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
483	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
484	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
485	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
486	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
487	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
488	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
489	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
490	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
491	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
492	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
493	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
494	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
495	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
496	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
497	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
498	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
499	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6
500	266	SGS Group	145	-	15.7	1.6



The chairs love your commercial. The table isn't so sure.

THERE'S ONE PROBLEM with the theory that television advertising is highly intrusive: avoiding commercials is easy.

Nonetheless, we are assured that they reach a huge and attentive audience.

For support we are given figures based on a method of research which records the time at which viewers switch their sets on, change channels, and switch off.

A method which asks us to assume that when the commercials are on, there's someone watching.

Questionable when you are armed with the knowledge that demand for electricity and water rises and falls like a massed heart-beat with each commercial break.

It is safe enough to deduce that this is the result of people putting the kettle on, or visiting the loo. (Doesn't common sense tell us that viewers are far more likely to leave the room in a commercial break, than during their favourite programme?).

Indeed, a number of research studies carried out over the past thirty years have suggested that millions of people, whose attention you are paying for, are not watching when the commercials come on.

And now, a new and revealing report has confirmed this.

A research psychologist called Dr. Peter Collett videoed people watching commercials by putting a hidden camera into their television sets.

He saw (literally) that for 20% of the commercials no one was in the room. To put it bluntly, you are spending 20% of your budget communicating with tables and chairs. (If only they had high disposable incomes.)

The videotapes also revealed that advertising breaks were the cue to escape the commercials.

Some people left the room. Others used their remote-control 'zappers' to find out what was on the other channels. That's another 10% of the commercials missed.

That leaves 70% of the commercials with a potential audience.

But the tapes show people talking, reading, sleeping. Some, who evidently forgot they were being filmed, used the sofa for activities normally reserved for the bedroom.

Half of the time no one was watching the TV set.

These insights into domestic reality show that only a third of all commercials were blessed with the viewers' attention.

The fact is that television advertising is less than half as effective as you thought it was.

Or put another way, twice as expensive. An apposite moment to bring your attention to newspaper advertising.

You cannot read a newspaper whilst behaving as if it isn't there.

If you put your newspaper down to make a cup of tea, the ads will still be there when you come back.

You will have seen a series of famous newspaper advertisements, featured as part of this campaign. Reminders of the compelling and powerful nature of the written word.

And a timely incentive for agencies to think twice before herding advertisers towards television.

They might find it beyond even their powers of persuasion to convince you that talking to furniture is going to help you shift your product.

And rather easier to sell you on the idea of advertising in the newspapers.

The effectiveness of which, for the last three minutes, you have been busy proving.

If you'd like more information, please call 071-433 1500.

**PEOPLE
READ
NEWS-
PAPERS**

The

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and their corresponding addresses. The names are listed in the left column, and the addresses are listed in the right column. The names are: John Doe, Jane Smith, and Bob Johnson. The addresses are: 123 Main St, 456 Elm St, and 789 Oak St.

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10. The tenth part of the document is a list of names and their corresponding addresses. The names are listed in the left column, and the addresses are listed in the right column. The names are: John Doe, Jane Smith, and Bob Johnson. The addresses are: 123 Main St, 456 Elm St, and 789 Oak St.

Unfinished business

[illegible]

The system must change

Lord Scarman, in the first of two articles, recommends some reforms for the Royal Commission to consider

We now know from recent bitter experience that miscarriage of justice sometimes occurs within the process of the system and can be undetected and uncorrected for years.

The Guildford Four were convicted of murder in 1975. Their convictions were not quashed until 1989. The Maguire Seven, convicted in 1975 of unlawfully possessing an explosive substance, had served their whole sentence and one of them had died in prison before their convictions were quashed this year.

In a considerable number of cases in recent years, miscarriage of justice has occurred but has not been exposed, let alone corrected, until long after trial and sentence. The number has been large enough to cause public anxiety and raise questions about the soundness of the system.

The terms of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice require it to look into and report on the criminal justice system in England and Wales, with a view to diminishing the chances of miscarriage of justice and correcting it when it occurs. Its wide-ranging terms include specific matters for enquiry: for example, confession evidence, the right of silence, scientific evidence, and strengthening the rights of the defence to full disclosure of relevant information shown to the prosecution.

The terms also require the commission to decide whether the criminal process as a whole suffers from weaknesses that not only provide the opportunity for miscarriage of justice but also obstruct its discovery and correction.

I do not expect the commission to recommend a demolition job, followed by a new design for the system, nor would something so revolutionary be wise. A more likely course is for the commission to write a new chapter in the history of the criminal law, maintaining its principles but adjusting the procedures and practice of the trial and appellate process to ensure a better protection against miscarriage of justice and more effective means of exposing and correcting it.

Certain principles have to be maintained for the protection of the accused: the presumption of innocence and the requirement for the prosecution to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt, trial by jury in serious cases, the accused's right to legal representation at all stages of the criminal process, and legal aid where the accused cannot pay for it.

The system's weaknesses lie elsewhere. They can be summarised as lack of effective judicial supervision of the pre-trial phase of the criminal process; lack of satisfactory and just arrangements for providing scientific evidence; inadequate stip-



New ideas for justice: Lord Scarman, seen during his Brixton riots enquiry in 1981, urges reforms to protect defendants

guards for the accused under interrogation. However, the number of cases in which confession evidence, on later examination, has been proved unsafe and in some circumstances demonstrably false has established the need for supervision by an authority other than the police.

If, as in France and many other countries, the preparation for trial should be a judicial responsibility from the moment of arrest, and in some cases even earlier, the judicial power would at once become concerned with the investigation and enquiries needed to discover the truth.

This in itself would be not only a valuable judicial function but also an important protection for the suspect, ensuring that the whole pre-trial period would be under the control and supervision of the judicial arm of the state. French practice is said to be as good as French principle. It is said that the *juge d'instruction* is a junior judge at or near the beginning of his or her career, who is often as eager to secure a confession as the police. However, the principle is sound, although we would be wise to devise our own machinery for implementing it.

I suggest two possibilities. We might learn from the example of the Scottish Procurator-Fiscal and put the task of supervision of the whole pre-trial period on the Crown Prosecution Service. The service has made an excellent start and already has control

not to be as good as French principle. It is said that the *juge d'instruction* is a junior judge at or near the beginning of his or her career, who is often as eager to secure a confession as the police. However, the principle is sound, although we would be wise to devise our own machinery for implementing it.

No doubt senior officers do their best and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 has strengthened the safe-

ty of the prosecution after charge, and it has the power of discontinuing a case. Although it may sound startling, I should like to see the supervisory power entrusted to a judicial officer of the service as in France it is entrusted to the *juge d'instruction*. This officer would have the duty of satisfying himself that the suspect's confession is genuine. He should also indicate the investigations and enquiries to be made in the preparation of the case, and would have the power to ensure that the defence was kept fully informed.

An accused person and his lawyers should have the right to apply to him for an order in matters arising during the preparation for trial; in this respect, the officer's powers would be similar to those of a master in the High Court's civil jurisdiction.

Alternatively, a judicial officer comparable with that of master could be established in the crown court system. There should be a summons for directions and the accused could seek disclosure of information, including the reports of scientific or other investigations in his possession or at the prosecution's disposal.

I realise that these suggestions involve radical reforms, but they go to the heart of the problem, which is how to adapt to the needs of justice in a modern society an ancient system that has a basis of sound principle, but not the apparatus or procedures to ensure the effective and legitimate protection of the accused in today's circumstances.

The right of silence would no longer be — nor could it ever really be — the only protection of an accused. With judicial supervision of the pre-

I do not expect a demolition job and a new design, more a new chapter in criminal law

Unfinished business

IN nine months of operation, the newly created Legal Services Ombudsman has dealt with more than 1,000 enquiries. Half have resulted in the files being called for examination. The biggest award the ombudsman has made has been about £1,700.

Michael Barnes, a former Labour MP and the former chairman of the United Kingdom Immigrants Advisory Service, who was appointed to the new post at the start of the year, admits he is hamstrung in some of his most troubling cases, such as that of an old woman who received negligent advice on the disposal of a piece of land. After she sued her solicitor, she was offered a settlement net of cost of £20,000. When advised not to go to trial, she accepted, but then faced a costs bill of £80,000.

Mr Barnes, interviewed for this month's issue of *The Legal Action Bulletin*, does not think he can recommend compensation awards at that level.

So far, the new office with its bigger staff of 12 as opposed to four or five previously has made little impact on the backlog of cases left by the Lay Observer, its predecessor. Mr Barnes says tack-

ling this backlog will be one of his priorities.

Child's play

SIXTY-FOUR schools of more than 400 pupils have been chosen to enter in the national mock trial competition run by the Citizenship



Foundation, an independent charity that promotes initiatives to bridge the gulf between citizen, law and state, and sponsored by the Bar. The contest involves pupils spending a whole day in the crown court on Saturday, or next Saturday, playing the parts of advocates, witnesses, court clerks and jurors, and to prosecute or defend in two cases they have prepared. They will be judged by real circuit judges and recorders. The teams will go into eight

heats around the country, and the winners to the national final in London next March.

Switching sides

ANOTHER barrister, meanwhile, has joined the ranks of solicitors. Derek Wheatley, QC, lately chief legal adviser at Lloyds Bank, is moving to bolster the expertise of its banking and asset finance group. Geoffrey Wynne, of the firm, says the move will help it to develop in the domestic UK banking market.

The Bar Council has approved — but then, as Mr Wynne says, there are no plans for Mr Wheatley to go into court.

Dressed up

A SOLICITOR believes he broke new ground last week by appearing in open court, in robes, in a negligence action in the Queen's Bench Division, in which Malcolm Pyrah, a showjumper, is being sued over a horse that became lame after he sold it. Watchers of the advocacy rights debate between the profession's two branches will remember Richard Slowe, the barrister who left the Bar last year to head the advocacy department at

S.J. Berwin. Mr Slowe, a solicitor before going to the Bar, had to be readmitted as a solicitor when he joined the firm. Last week he was the junior advocate in a negligence case in chambers, where solicitors have rights of audience. Unexpectedly, the judge gave judgment in open court. Mr Slowe, wearing a solicitor's gown, tabs and collar but no wig, was allowed to sit behind counsel.

There is a twist to the tale: the deputy judge was Richard Southwell, QC, the architect of the Bar's opposition to solicitors being allowed into the higher courts.

Enquiry in peril

LEGAL costs are jeopardising the judicial enquiry into how nine Orkney children were seized in February after sex abuse allegations. The islands' council is warning Michael Forsyth, the Scottish minister of state, that without government help to pay its legal bill, it will have to pull out of the enquiry that is costing it £36,000 a week. Questions are being asked about guidelines to speed up proceedings. The enquiry has cost £2 million so far and is expected to cost at least another £10 million if it lasts more than a year. Some lawyers say it could run until March 1993.

SCRIVENER

Now you will pay more for justice

THE Children Act has been so highly praised since it came into force on October 14 that I began to wonder whether I was wrong in thinking the whole exercise too good to be true. I need not have worried. It is rather like gazing at that tempting brochure that promises the earth — not to mention heaven, too. Before getting too excited, read the small print.

In the case of the Children Act, for small print read the rules and regulations. Most of us connected with the workings of the law realise that an act is not just an act but requires a mass of rules and regulations to make the legislation work. As far as courts and practitioners are concerned, the rules are not only complex thanks to the big reorganisation of previous legislation, but they were also produced so late that we are still feeling our way. Although the act was passed in 1989, some of the court rules were laid before Parliament only this September. All of us involved in training were doing it without benefit of the rules. Instead, we had a general nod and wink as to what the rules were likely to be.

So far, so not too difficult. Start to delve further, however, and you find that the magistrates' courts will no longer be the accessible places they once were. I claimed in my last article that magistrates were in danger of becoming more like High Court judges. Now it appears that our courts are going to become more like the higher courts too.

Take somebody wanting to apply for maintenance. Under the old system she — for it is usually she — would go to court to make a complaint and a summons would be issued requiring the respondent to come to court. Under the new legislation the person has to get and fill in an application form that is seven pages long, and a three-page statement of means. This must then be endorsed by the court with the date, time and place of hearing. Then she must serve the respondent with this, together with his form for an answer to her application, and her statement as to when the papers were served. What is more, she will have to pay a fee of £30.

Apparently fees will be chargeable on a wide range of family proceedings, including maintenance-related cases and Children Act cases, although applications for emergency protection orders will be exempt. A person wanting to apply for contact or residence orders is expected to pay £30, while applicants for care or supervision, education supervision or child assessment orders will have to pay £50 for every child.

One London borough has just taken out emergency protection orders on six children in one family. If the case should come

to court £300 will have to be spent before anything is started. Given that fees in the criminal justice system were abolished as long ago as 1967, I have to ask myself whether cases brought under the Children Act deserve such a market-led ethos.

Liz Thompson, who is the justices' clerk for the inner London family proceedings courts, is as saddened by this as her magistrates. The procedure in magistrates' courts, which used to be relatively simple, has now been made extremely complicated, she said. It is difficult enough for the professionals but it will be very difficult for the unrepresented, she added.

"The concept that local authorities will be required to pay a fee for exercising their statutory duties to protect children seems extraordinary to me," she said. "Introducing what amounts to a market concept into the great principles of the Children Act seems inappropriate."

The Magistrates' Association and the Justices' Clerks Society, along with other interested bodies, have objected to charges being made in the public sector. "We told the Home Office that charging fees was inconsistent with the philosophy of the act," said Peter Dawson, the chairman of the family law committee of the Justices' Clerks Society. "Nor do we believe that public bodies should be paying other public bodies."

Whatever the rights and wrongs of charging, there seems little doubt that magistrates' courts will be forced to collect fees. I may be naive, but I did not like the fact that the *Court User Guide* for

September 1991 referred to the likelihood of such fees in care proceedings in 1992. Yet the consultation paper issued by the Home Office required comments no later than the 30th of that self-same September. Has some higher power already made that decision? I think we should be told.

As far as private individuals are concerned, the courts will have power to remit fees in cases where they judge there are good grounds for doing so, and fees would not apply to applicants receiving income support, family credit or legal aid. Local authorities do not seem to have any choice in the matter. So where will the money go? I have been informed that courts will be expected to collect a certain amount of money in fees. An expected amount will then be taken into account when public money is allocated.

I am not quite certain what that means but it sounds suspiciously like "if we do not collect we will get less of the cake". It is a sorry situation.

● The author is the chairman of an inner London family proceedings court



BRIEF

PAULA DAVIES

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

TRADE MARKS/I.P.
City £32,000 - £40,000

Trade mark strategy and tactics are integral to the successful expansion of all businesses within both domestic and international markets. Our Client has quickly developed an enviable reputation amongst City commercial practices by adopting an entrepreneurial approach in solving client problems; this is fully illustrated within the fast growing innovative I.P. practice. Now a market leader, it seeks an additional lawyer, preferably with 1-2 years' trade mark experience, to join an expanding team.

The Trade Mark group, supported internally by other lawyers specialising in E.C., Copyright and Patent activities, and worldwide by a network of trade mark specialists, is exceptional in the provision of the full range of relevant services, including maintenance/surveillance programmes, defence/enforcement activities and increasingly, commercial initiatives in licensing, franchising, and joint ventures.

The successful candidate's initial tasks will involve supporting the existing team in all aspects of the vastly increased workload; he/she should also display sound commercial acumen, and an enthusiasm to initiate and participate in the lateral extension of trade mark activities, leading to the further development of the practice, and a commensurate growth in profitability.

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Focus on those who sit in judgment: Peter Armitage plays the defendant in a scene from Granada's *Inside the Jury*, which uses a shadow team to judge real cases

Trial by television for the jury

Research on how 12 people rule on an accused's innocence or guilt should be allowed, Jonathan Caplan, QC, argues

Last summer, Granada Television began a unique experiment. As real jurors were being sworn in at Liverpool Crown Court, two "shadow" juries were selected by Granada and placed in the public gallery for five different trials. They heard everything the real jury heard and saw everything the real jury saw. When the shadow jury was unavoidably detained in a lift between floors, the court, fortuitously of course, was unable to sit until they had been released. When the real jury retired to its jury room to consider its verdicts, the shadow jury retired to another in an adjoining office block. The only difference was that cameras awaited the shadow jury to film its deliberations.

Out of five trials, the shadow juries — drawn from the electoral register at random — reached the same verdicts on four. In the fifth case, the real jury convicted but the shadow jury was unable to agree. Tonight, Granada screens its jury's deliberations in one of those trials.

The trial involved an allegation of assault on the police and, familiarly enough, two conflicting accounts of what had happened. Who was lying: the police or the defendant? The result is a fascinating insight into how juries approach their task. Uncomfortably, the burden of proof seems to have

only a walk-on part in the drama inside this jury room, and the judge's direction to them to decide the facts on the evidence given in court does not prevent them from playing detective. "Policemen don't do that," says one. "If you verbally abuse a policeman and he doesn't get respect off you, then he will get his own back," counters another.

The discussion is not an orderly and logical examination of the evidence. It is a confrontation of viewpoints and beliefs in which, untrue to cinema, initial positions are not radically altered, save that two "don't knows" later vote "not guilty".

Interestingly, in only one of the five cases did the jury's view of counsel affect its decision — when they disapproved of the way in which the prosecution cross-examined a defendant who was too bright.

"I just wanted to see the jury system at work," Claudia Milne, the programme's executive producer, says. "Did the adversarial system help them or not? I'm not sure at the end of the day that they actually were able to differentiate between being sure and deciding what probably happened. I did

come away, though, with my confidence in the jury system intact, but only after I thought about it."

What Granada has done with a shadow jury would be illegal with a real one. In 1980, the attorney-general failed to prove that the common law prohibited the *New Statesman* from publishing an

The trouble with the Contempt of Court Act is that it makes absolute the ban on speaking to jurors about their deliberations

interview with a member of the jury in the trial of Jeremy Thorpe, the former Liberal leader. One year later, the Contempt of Court Act enacted that it would from then on be a contempt of court for anyone to obtain, disclose or solicit any information about the secrets of the jury room.

There is obvious good sense in

such a ban if the aim of the probing is to identify a particular case and to see how strong the verdict actually was. The finality of a jury's verdict ought not to be imperilled by Fleet Street. But the trouble with the Contempt of Court Act is that it makes the ban on speaking to jurors about their deliberations absolute. There is a Royal Commission examining the fundamentals of the English criminal justice system. Has it occurred to anyone that Lord Runciman and his fellow commissioners will be barred by law from speaking to a single representative of that system's cornerstone — the jury — about their own serving experience and their views as to possible improvements?

When the Roskill committee on long fraud trials reported a few years ago, it too noted this difficulty. Roskill stated that the law had prohibited it from conducting "direct research on jurors' comprehension of actual fraud cases" and that it had to substitute commissioned research with volunteers.

When the Contempt of Court Act was going through Parliament, the government had included an exception for legitimate research.

As the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay (then the Lord Advocate) observed in the debate: "The jury system, great institution that it is, surely can stand up to properly conducted research." But the exception was struck out in the House of Lords and the ban reached the statute book in its present absolute form. An attempt by the Bar Council to alter the law and to permit controlled jury research failed earlier this year when the courts (research) bill — a private member's bill — failed to achieve a second reading.

Surely the arguments for bona fide jury research, which maintained the anonymity of jurors and of their cases, are compelling, particularly if the research is licensed by a controlling body. Examples of licensed research projects include discovering how jurors could be better assisted in their task, and how far they understood and applied the judge's directions on the law. The aim should be to see how the system might be refined and improved. The jury is and must remain a fixture in our courts but it cannot be right that we do not know many of the answers because we are not allowed to ask the questions.

The author is chairman of the public affairs committee of the Bar Council. Inside the jury is to be screened tonight on ITV at 10.40.

Still time to enter the Law Awards



ONLY 11 days to the closing date for entries to this year's *The Times* Law Awards, and the theme of the competition — the role of the law in protecting the environment — has received royal endorsement.

Last week, the Prince of Wales commended the legislative approach to the environment taken by the European Community. "It is important to recognise that in many areas of environmental policy, the European Community, as the only body in the world with a supra-national authority to legislate to protect the environment, is ahead of the world," the Prince said.

Not everybody agrees with the legislative route to environmental protection. Paul Bowden, a lawyer with Freshfields, the sponsors of this year's awards, says better results may come from persuading people it is in their own commercial interests to act in an ecologically friendly way. He adds: "Many of my clients are pushing themselves to become better environmentalists because they know it will give them competitive advantage."

Weighing up these two viewpoints is at the heart of this year's competition. Students and those training for a legal career are invited to submit an article of not more than 1,000 words, by November 30, on the

topic. "The future of the environment: will legislation or self-regulation protect it best?"

For lawyers dealing with planning and environmental problems, the role of the law has become a complex issue. Peter Kunzick, Hammond Suddard's resident partner in Brussels, is spearheading the M3/Twyford Downs Association's lobbying of the European Commission. This resulted in the recent demand by Carlo Ripa de Meana, the environment commissioner, that work on the M3 extension (and six other environmentally sensitive projects) should cease.

Mr Kunzick is convinced that environmental problems are now on such a scale that only national action orchestrated through legislative bodies such as the European Parliament can be successful.

"Different countries have very different priorities towards the environment," he says.

The importance of environmental law was also highlighted when David Trippier, the environment minister, welcomed the new chair in the subject at the University of Kent, endowed by Cripps Harries Hall and SAUR UK, saying that it is "fundamental to the greening of our industries".

HOW TO ENTER

STUDENTS in any discipline, and anybody training for a legal career, are invited to take part in *The Times* Law Awards, sponsored by Freshfields. To enter, write an article of no more than 1,000 words on "The future of the environment: will legislation or self-regulation protect it best?"

PRIZES: First prize £3,000; second £2,000; third £1,000; plus three runner-up prizes of £500 each. The winner will also be offered a two-week placement with Freshfields and their entry published in *The Times*.

JUDGES: The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Glaisdale, Simon Jenkins, the editor of *The Times*, Jonathan Porritt, the leading environmentalist, and John Galsworthy, partner, Freshfields.

original work of the entrant. Articles will not be eligible if they copy or borrow ideas or arguments from other sources. The *Times* and Freshfields reserve the right to delete or omit from any published article anything that in the absolute discretion of the *Times* and Freshfields should not be published on editorial or legal grounds.

3. All entries will be acknowledged but not returned. The organisers of the competition accept no responsibility for the safe-keeping of the articles and entrants are advised to keep a copy. 4. Entries must be no more than 1,000 words, well-argued and clearly written or typed with double spacing, and of general interest. The top sheet should carry the entrant's name, address and home and daytime telephone numbers. If you are a student, please include your subject(s) of study and institution. If you are in training, give the name of your employer. 5. In the event of any dispute, the decision of the judges will be final. 6. Entries should be sent to *The Times* Law Awards, Freshfields, 65 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DF, to be received no later than November 30, 1991. 7. A competition hotline is available on 07-625 7546.

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Mr. PETER CONI, O.B.E., Q.C.

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The successful candidate is likely to be a partner or senior assistant with substantial relevant experience and proven technical ability and practice development skills.

The prospects, including that of being the next Head of Department, are excellent and for the right candidate an immediate partnership may be offered.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Alistair Dougall on 071-405 6062 (071-831 0030 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD. Initial discussions can be held on a no-names basis.

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مجلس النواب

Court of Appeal

Law Report November 19 1991

Queen's Bench Division

Transfer of pension fund assets

Stannard v Fisons Pension Trust Ltd

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Staughton

[Judgment November 6]

In deciding the value of assets to be transferred from a company's pension fund to a new fund established by a subsidiary of the company, the trustees should have taken account of the increase in value of the fund that resulted from a bull market on the stock exchange.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the trustees of the pension fund of Fisons plc from Mr Justice Warner who on July 6, 1990, on an originating summons by the plaintiff, Robert William Stannard, had declared that the trustees had not properly determined the amount of assets to be transferred from that fund to a fund established by Norsk Hydro Fertilisers Ltd ("NHF"), a subsidiary of Fisons formed for the purpose of acquiring a Norwegian company.

Mr Michael Hart, QC and Mr Christopher Tidmarsh for the trustees; Mr Alan Steinfeld, QC and Mr Jack Craiven for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that on the sale, agreed in April 1982, by Fisons of its fertiliser division to NHF, some 2,500 employees in that division, who were then members of the Fisons pension fund, were transferred to employment by NHF and became members of the NHF fund. The plaintiff was one of those employees.

Before the judge, there had been a dispute as to which of the

Fisons pension fund rules applied to the transfer of the assets, but from a practical viewpoint there was no distinction of substance between the various relevant rules, under all of which the trustees had a duty to act fairly as between the members of the two funds, being guided by actuarial advice.

In determining the amount of assets to be transferred, the trustees used a basis known as the total service reserve method. If another basis, the past service reserve method, had been used, the transfer amount would have been greater.

Moreover, the value of the funds on the 1979 valuation could not have covered both sets of employees on the past service reserve method, or could not have done so and left a surplus for the purposes of already retired employees which had been overtaken by high rates of inflation.

However, between April 1982 and the transfer date in December, the value of the fund had risen very greatly because of a bull market in the stock markets which began then and lasted for several years.

The consequences of that were that a transfer amount calculated on the past service reserve method could not have been afforded without jeopardising the hopes of existing pensioners, and that, on the method in fact adopted, a surplus in the fund had implications for the respective company contribution rates which, the plaintiff submitted, resulted in unfairness both to NHF and to the transferring employees.

To give properly informed consideration, as under the general law they were bound to do, to the discretion they had to exercise, the trustees needed to know the relevance of the value of the fund to the problem in hand in relation to actuarial principles and the implications of their decision on future contributions.

The trustees could and should have given the trustees the relevant information, but that did not occur.

Since it might materially have affected the trustees' decision if they had been properly informed as to the value of the

fund in December 1982 and the implications of that value, His Lordship would uphold the judge's decision.

The views expressed by Mr Justice Warner in *In re Imperial Foods Ltd Pension Scheme* ([1986] 1 W.L.R. 717) on the dangers of relying on a possibly ephemeral rise in the market value of pension funds, were to be taken not as rulings of law but as an indication of matters which could properly be taken into account in some cases in considering what was just and equitable.

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON agreed and Lord Justice Staughton delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Allen & Overy; Norton Rose.

Deferring decision is not making one

Regina v Middlesbrough District Council, ex parte I. J. H. Cameron (Holdings) Ltd

Before Mr Justice Popplewell

[Judgment November 13]

A decision by a local authority to defer, for a matter of a few weeks, its decision whether or not to grant hackney carriage licences pending a survey to determine whether there was an unmet demand for hackney carriages in the area was not a refusal to grant the licences and was not in breach of the local authority's duties under section 16 of the Transport Act 1985.

Mr Justice Popplewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division in dismissing an application by I. J. H. Cameron (Holdings) Ltd for judicial review of a decision

by Middlesbrough District Council to refuse to grant a hackney carriage licence by purporting to defer the decision pending a survey to ascertain whether there was an unmet demand for hackney carriages in the area.

Section 16 provides: "(b) ... the grant of a licence may be refused, for the purposes of limiting the number of hackney carriages ... if, but only if, the person authorised to grant licences is satisfied that there is no significant demand for the services of hackney carriages within the area to which the licence would apply) which is unmet."

Mr Justice Popplewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division in dismissing an application by I. J. H. Cameron (Holdings) Ltd for judicial review of a decision

by Middlesbrough District Council to refuse to grant a hackney carriage licence by purporting to defer the decision pending a survey to ascertain whether there was an unmet demand for hackney carriages in the area.

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Mr Justice Popplewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division in dismissing an application by I. J. H. Cameron (Holdings) Ltd for judicial review of a decision

by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, ex parte Lancashire Police Authority

Before Mr Justice Webster

[Judgment November 5]

When the Secretary of State for the Home Department was making determinations pursuant to section 14(4) of the Police Act 1964, it was necessary for him to take into account any relevant Police Negotiating Board (PNB) Circulars, for they had legal effect as between the employing authority and its officers.

For the secretary of state properly to take into account the circulars it was necessary for him to construe them. It was not necessary or proper for him to

construe them in the way in which an Act of Parliament or a statutory instrument would be construed, by application of fine legal rules of construction. It was necessary to construe it simply in the way in which an educated person, acquainted with the factual context, would construe it, by giving to it its common sense meaning and without resort to any such legal rules.

Mr Justice Webster so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division in allowing the application of the Lancashire Police Authority (LPA) for judicial review in respect of determinations made by the Home Secretary dated July 14, 1989 and August 16, 1989 under section 14(4) of the 1964 Act.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said that under section 16 a council had to ascertain whether there was a demand for more hackney carriages. If it failed to carry out a proper enquiry it would be liable to find itself the subject of judicial review for failing to be properly satisfied that there was no unmet demand.

As people could apply for licences at any time of the year there might be no period when the council could carry out an enquiry at a time when no applications had been made.

The council argued that a deferment was not a refusal but was neutral. Section 16 dealt with a refusal to grant a licence and did not require a council to grant a

licence unless it was satisfied there was an unmet demand.

If it were not for the decision of Mr Justice Nolan in *R v Reading Borough Council, ex parte Egan* ([1987] 1 W.L.R. 1287) his Lordship would have had no doubt that a deferment for a short period to carry out a proper enquiry into need could not be called a refusal. As it was he found himself in the invidious position of having to disagree with that decision.

A refusal meant saying "No", not saying "We are going to consider your case in a short time after making the requisite enquiries".

Solicitors: Jacobsens for Levinsons; Donnelly, Harlepool; Lee Bolton & Lee for Mr C. Crossman, Middlesbrough.

The determinations were in respect of claims made for the recovery of expenditure incurred by the Lancashire Constabulary during the miners' strike in providing mutual aid to the Nottinghamshire Constabulary and the South Yorkshire Constabulary under section 14(1) of the 1964 Act.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Nicholas Huskinson for the LPA; Mr David Pannick for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE WEBSTER said that it was common ground among all the constabularies concerned that the appropriate amount of payment to be made for mutual aid was to be determined in the light of any relevant PNB Circulars.

The PNB was established by Parliament in 1980 as the negotiating body for the police service. Agreements made in the form of recommendations to the secretary of state and had no legal status until they were approved by him.

The circulars in existence at the time of the dispute were made by the PNB in 1983/84, 1984/85, 1985/86, 1986/87, 1987/88, 1988/89, 1989/90 and 1990/91.

Those circulars had no legal status as a matter of public law. Their legal significance was that they governed, or were relevant to the legal obligations contained in the collective agreements made between employers and the employees' sides of the police authorities.

Although there was no statutory direction to the secretary of state to take them into account, it was difficult to arrive at any conclusion other than

that the circulars were not only relevant to the determinations, but of central relevance to them, although their effect was not, of course, conclusive.

As between the LPA as the employing authority and its officers, those circulars had legal effect and it was necessary for the secretary of state to take into account those circulars for the purposes of his determinations.

He could not take them into account without first deciding what they meant; he could not take into account what they meant without taking into account the proper, or at least a probable, construction of them; and he could not take that into account without construing them himself.

In his Lordship's judgment, therefore, in order to enable him properly to take the circulars into account it was necessary for him to construe them.

That was not to say that necessarily every decision-making body would have to construe such a document, for there might be circumstances in which a circular could sufficiently be taken into account upon the basis that its meaning, or the meaning of part of it, was either incomplete or unclear.

Although in the instant case it was not necessary or proper to construe it in the way in which an Act of Parliament or a statutory instrument would be construed, by the application of fine legal rules of construction, it was necessary to construe it simply in the way in which an educated person, acquainted with the factual context, would construe it, by giving to it its common sense meaning.

Solicitors: Mr Brian Hill, Preston; Treasury Solicitor.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

A Job in Legal Publishing

The publishing arm of Chambers & Partners is preparing the next edition of our legal directory *A User's Guide to the Top 1,000 Law Firms and all Barristers' Chambers*, and needs someone with a knowledge of the legal profession to join the editorial team at Long Lane. The ideal candidate would be a law graduate or qualified lawyer, currently unemployed, who would like to spend the next three months working on research into the legal profession and assisting in the writing of the directory's editorial section.

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sets of barristers' chambers. Gaining access to this information would benefit anyone who still feels uncertain as to the direction their career should take. They will get a bird's-eye view of the profession as a whole. This copy, of course, put them off entirely. But if it confirms their desire to practise law it will help them decide which firms to apply to for a job, or, alternatively, to go to the Bar. A vast fund of information has been accumulated through our publishing activities, only some of which finds its way into the directory. It has proved its usefulness time and again to our contributors, companies when they have been asked to consider the various firms which might interest them. It will be equally useful to the person who joins our editorial team. * Michael Chambers

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There is still some safety in numbers

Accountancy has been considered a thoroughly "safe" career but the current recession has affected even this profession. Chartered accountants have probably been hardest hit.

"The profession has been cushioned until now by public demand," Madeleine Ross, of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, says. "Recent years have seen tremendous expansion in services. Now, though, we have some unemployment, including chartered senior managers and partners but mostly younger people."

This is particularly so in large public practices, in which young chartered accountants who previously would have moved to new firms or to industry and commerce to widen their experience, have decided it best to stay put in a recession. Consequently, a fairly large proportion has been made redundant.

A further effect of the recession, Mrs Ross says, is that 1991 trainee vacancies were filled early by high-quality graduates who applied in good time and responded promptly to job offers.

This means that a lot of graduates, who realise the value of the ICA institute's qualifications, are looking for ways to spend the time before re-applying. Travel is one answer, especially working holi-

Despite the recession accountancy remains a relatively safe and flexible profession, writes Sally Watts

days with opportunities to learn new skills and gain in maturity. Young, qualified chartered accountants might specialise in taxation, still in demand, though traditionally less popular. They may consider self-employment once they have a practising certificate, two years after qualifying.

As in most careers, flexibility is the key to changing conditions. Paul Carey, a public sector accountant, comments: "A lot of change is going on. Financial control will always be needed, and in times of recession there is insolvency work."

Mr Carey qualified in 1983 with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), which specialises in preparing students for the public services and builds management development into its training. About 10 per cent of the students are in management consultancy or with organisations such as Marks and Spencer, IBM, Shell and the

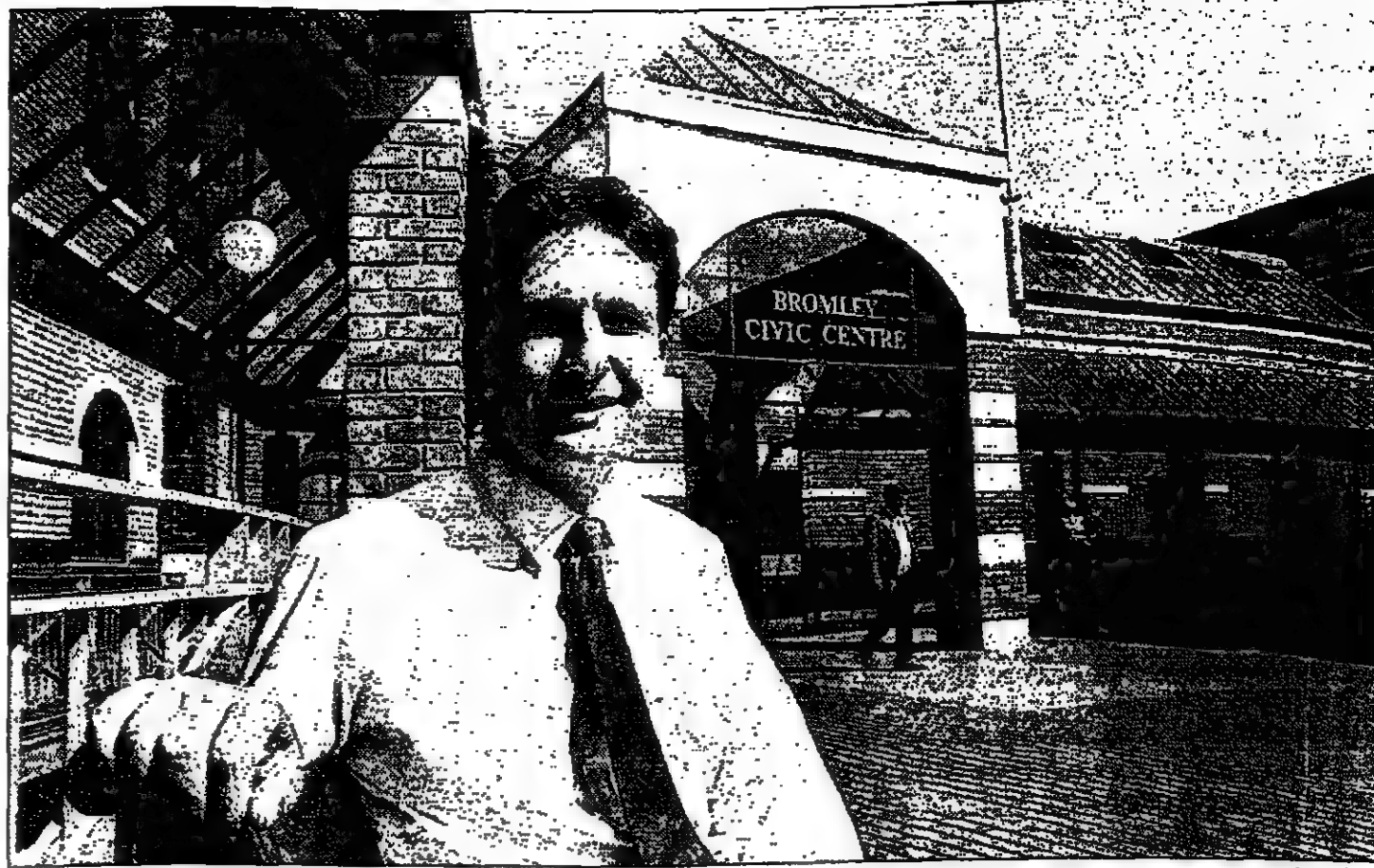
World Bank, but the great majority work in local or health authorities, universities, polytechnics, government departments, the Post Office, national audit and similar areas strong on job security.

Like many people who choose accountancy, Paul Carey left Oxford, where he graduated in philosophy, politics and economics, with no particular career plans. "I certainly didn't have a vocation but I wanted to help improve the public sector," he recalls. He worked at a district audit office in south London while studying at West London Institute, finding alternate work and study a good complementary arrangement.

In his late twenties, he joined the London Borough of Bromley as their chief internal auditor, with a staff of 15. His next job is as an assistant county treasurer of Hampshire, and management consultancy is a possible future move.

He finds the accountant's role is much more interesting and significant than mere number crunching. "The figures are a means to an end; what really matters are the people and services behind them."

Accountants are generally able to move around. Simon Hawkins, 30, another CIPFA member, won the 1990 "young accountant of the year" award while working for Shell International Chemicals. He qualified as a trainee with Somerset County Council, stayed there a



Balancing act: Paul Carey says: "Financial control will always be needed, and in times of recession there is insolvency work."

further two years and later transferred to Shell, which he describes as a career change rather than simply changing jobs.

Management accountants, the strategic financial managers of industry and commerce, qualify through the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA). This year a record number of students, both graduates and non-graduates, have registered.

Redundancy is believed to be lower among the institute's members than in some areas of the profession. In July, only about 200 of 23,000 members were unemployed. Members are involved with budgeting, planning, controlling, formulating strategy and making best use of resources.

Good opportunities exist in Europe. According to CIMA: "There is no comparable body of

management accountants, and companies there are much keener to recruit our members than chartered accountants."

Certified accountants work in the public or private area. The average annual intake at the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants is 15,000 students, though the recession, which has led to fewer places for trainees and qualified, makes it harder to find

openings. Entrants have a degree, A-levels or a BTEC diploma.

● *Institute of Chartered Accountants, Chartered Accountants Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2P 2BJ. Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, 3 Robert Street, London WC2N 6BH. Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, 63 Portland Place, London W1N 4AB. Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, 29 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3EE*

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Closing Date for Applications for both posts 6th December 1991

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Informal enquiries to: Bob Doyle, Director of Commissioning and Quality Assurance, on 0302 367051.

Information package and application form from: Mrs J. Whitehouse, Secretary to Director of Commissioning and Quality Assurance, Doncaster Health, York House, Cleveland Street, Doncaster DN1 3EL. Tel: 0302 367051 ext 261.

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For an informal talk about the posts please ring Stuart Bain, Chief Executive, on 081-554 8811. For an information pack, please ring Maureen Fletcher on 081-554 2611 ext 3570 or write to her at Redbridge Health Care, King George Hospital, Eastern Avenue, Wford, Essex IG2 7FL.

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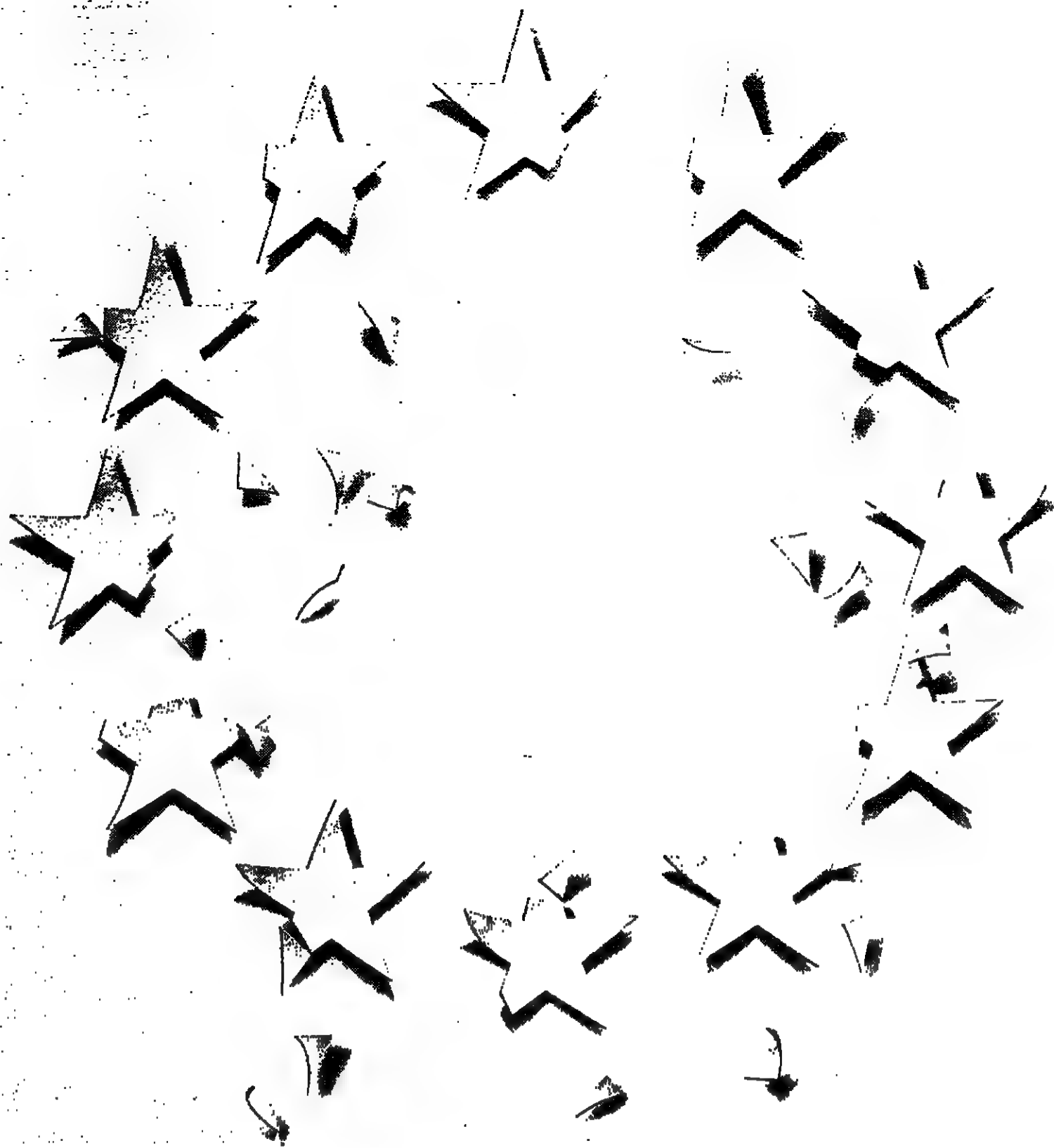
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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22 1991



Taking up the Challenge: the skippers named by Chay Blyth to compete in next year's British Steel Challenge round the world yacht race (left to right): Richard Tudor, aged 32, sailmaker, from Pwllheli; Paul Jeffes, 38, boatyard manager, from the Clyde; Adrian Donovan, 33,

charter boat skipper, from Plymouth; Michael Golding, 31, fireman, from Slough; Vivien Cherry, 32, engineering manager, from Wokingham; Alec Honey, 48, from Littlehampton, who heads the AA's continental emergency centre at Boulogne; Pete Goss, 29, former Royal

Marine commando, from Torpoint, Cornwall; John Chittenden, 51, master mariner, from London; Will Sutherland, 46, management training instructor, from Scaynes Hill, Sussex; and Ian MacGillivray, 35, boatbuilder, from Southampton.

Skippers selected for sea challenge

By BARRY PICKTHALL

A FIREMAN, two boat-builders, a former Royal Marine commando and a female environmental engineer are among ten intrepid sailors named by Chay Blyth yesterday to skipper the ten identical yachts in next year's British Steel Challenge round the world race.

For Vivien Cherry, an environmental engineer, who beat 160 applicants to the job, the eight-month race is "the ultimate test". A veteran of the Fastnet and two-person Round Britain races, the Australian Three Peaks event, together with the OSTAR and Two-Star transatlantic marathons, Cherry said: "It's a fantastic challenge and I can't wait to get started."

Ranged against her, however, are some well-known and experienced yachtsmen, including John Chittenden, who skippered the British cruising maxi, Creightons Naturally, in the 1989 Whitbread Round the World race, and Pete Goss, a transatlantic

race class winner who has spent the past six months training the crews for the challenge ahead.

Michael Golding, a fireman, is another circumnavigator who also has four transatlantic races to his credit.

The lesser-known figures proved themselves aboard the first of Blyth's identical 67ft steel yachts, British Steel Challenge, during a round Britain cruise earlier this year. "We were looking not just for sailing ability but leadership qualities," he said.

Adrian Donovan, like Chittenden, has served his time in the merchant navy. He has also competed in the two-handed transatlantic race and was the winning skipper of this year's Trans-Arc race.

The crew of 120 have each paid £15,000 to compete in the race. The skippers take over their yachts on April 2, leaving them six months to mould their crews before the race starts from Southampton on September 25.

Clubs attempt to alter Scottish League structure

By RODDY FORSYTH

THE Scottish premier division, which was enlarged to 12 teams only this season, may be reconstituted yet again next year if radical proposals by the leading clubs are accepted by the other League members.

An eight-page discussion document, which was presented to the Scottish League management committee yesterday, suggests such innovations as a month-long winter break and the division of the premier and first divisions in mid-season.

The discussion paper is primarily the work of Rangers and Aberdeen, although both clubs were at pains yesterday to stress that they had consulted with a number of other clubs. They hope that by the time formal proposals are put before the League, perhaps at the end of the season, they will have the support of all premier division clubs and at least half of those in the first division.

It is proposed that in mid-season, after each premier division club has completed 22 games, the top eight teams separate from the rest to play for the title and the European club competition places. The bottom four clubs would join

the top four in the first division to begin a fresh series of games, which would decide the four teams to make up the premier division for the following season. The scheme is similar to the league structure of a number of European countries, such as Switzerland and Austria.

The first half of the season would conclude on January 1 and would be followed by a four-week winter break. The second stage would get under way with the third round of the Scottish Cup. The break would affect only the top 16 clubs. The rest of the first division and all of the second division would continue playing, with the pools promoters' money divided amongst them.

League fixtures for premier division clubs would thus be reduced from 44 games to 36, with 34 played on Saturdays. International matches would be played either on free Saturdays or on Wednesdays after free Saturdays.

Reserve and youth-team football would be restructured, with premier division youth-team players being farmed out to second division clubs on a quota basis. The league season would begin and finish a week earlier.

Plan to host 1996 European football finals takes shape Grounds for optimism over England's bid

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THREE of the four venues in which England plans to stage the finals of the European championships in 1996 have been determined. The Football Association will learn next week that the grounds to be used are Old Trafford and Villa Park, as well as Wembley, naturally the main arena.

A site in the North-East is needed to complete the geographical spread, but a suitable all-seater stadium which must be capable of accommodating at least 30,000 spectators has not yet been found there. Those still under consideration are Roker Park, Sunderland, and St James' Park, Newcastle, as well as

Elland Road, the Yorkshire home of Leeds United.

Ayresome Park was the North-East's representative during the World Cup finals in 1966 but, although Middlesbrough are in contention for promotion to the Premier League, their ground has yet to be adequately developed. Should all three of the alternatives also fail to meet the requirements, the organisers would reluctantly look elsewhere.

Merseyside (either Anfield or Goodison Park) or North London (Highbury or White Hart Lane) are the alternative locations included in the proposals designed by Glen Kirton, the head of external affairs at the FA. The details

are to be submitted to the governing body before the end of next week.

"I think it would show a lack of courtesy to discuss the plans before they have been seen by Uefa," Kirton said yesterday. "However, it is fair to say that we are hopeful that we can bring the biggest football occasion to England since 1966."

The bid, submitted at the end of last year, was reinforced during the summer when, on the advice of Uefa, the European football union, plans to host the World Cup in 1998 were dropped. The diplomatic withdrawal, leaving France as the strong favourites for the global tournament, allowed Kirton to concentrate

his energies on the European championship.

The project is on a more manageable scale. Whereas Italy had either to refurbish or to rebuild a dozen arenas in order to hold the last World Cup, for instance, Sweden has had to redecorate only four, in Gothenburg, Malmö, Norrköping and Stockholm, for the European finals next summer.

England's bid is regarded as more competitive than either of the other contenders, Spain, the host of the 1982 World Cup, and The Netherlands. It is perhaps significant that Wembley has already gained the approval of Uefa as the venue of the European Cup final on May 20. Official confirmation is to be announced next month.

Wembley has not been used for such an occasion for 13 years, since Liverpool became champions by beating Bruges 1-0. It will be the focal point of the tournament in 1996 if, as expected, Uefa decides next year to award England the event.

Uefa decides against action

By STUART JONES

THE German Federation will not be punished for the violence which preceded the nation's European championship qualifying tie in Belgium on Wednesday night.

Although 799 German supporters were arrested in Brussels, a spokesman for the European football union (Uefa) confirmed yesterday that no action will be taken because the incidents did not occur at the stadium.

"That is a problem for the Belgian police, not for the federation or Uefa," the spokesman said. Since an official warning had been issued to the Germans earlier in the competition after their tie in Luxembourg was similarly marred, their manager

feared that a severe penalty might be imposed.

"The worst thing that could happen to us," Bertie Vogts said, "would be to be suspended like the English clubs, for many years." The Germans, who won 1-0, are almost certain to qualify for the finals. They require only a draw at home to Luxembourg on December 17 to overtake the group leaders, Wales.

Before the game, shops in Brussels were ransacked and mounted police charged rioters. Troublemakers, armed with knives, tear gas and baseball bats, attacked Belgians and Arabs in the city centre and the railway station. Police confirmed that many offenders wore Nazi insignia.

There was no trouble during the match and 6,000 other supporters returned home without incident. Lennart Johansson, the Uefa president, congratulated the Belgians for their security arrangements and predicted that hooliganism, once known as the English disease, will be eradicated within a dozen years.

"The troublemakers are being held on a tighter and tighter leash," he said. "It is no longer possible for one man to be responsible for several hundred games in Europe." He was referring to the former Uefa secretary, Hans Bangert, who was found guilty of negligence after the Heysel tragedy in 1985.

England, qualifying automatically as the hosts, would play all of their games there. To maximise the income, the biggest stadium in the country would also be used for both of the semi-finals, as well as the final itself.

Uefa officials will back last year's World Cup supporter strategy to try to ensure a trouble-free championship in Sweden involving English and Scottish supporters. David Bloomfield, an FA spokesman, said: "We are planning an identical process and will have meetings with the host nation and the clubs drawn in our group."

Botham may be considering a move to S Africa

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

IAN Botham may play in South Africa next year. Botham, who is on a speaking tour of the country with Fred Trueman and Dickie Bird, is believed to have had talks with the Currie Cup champions, Western Province, with a view to joining them at the end of next summer.

Western Province officials would not confirm the approach, but the timing would fit in well with the England all-rounder, who will start a new county career with Durham next season after helping

Worcestershire to two county championship titles.

Botham, who was a vociferous critic of apartheid, has turned down lucrative offers in the past to tour South Africa with unofficial England teams. But now that the Republic has been welcomed back into international cricket, Botham could be the first of many England players to compete in South Africa's provincial competitions in the next few years.

Botham, who will be 36 on Sunday, would still be a big capture for a country desperate to attract players of international experience, particularly as he resurrected his England career in the last Test against the West Indies at the Oval in the summer.

Botham needs to play one Test in New Zealand in the new year to reach 100 caps, though his appearance in England colours will be delayed by a starring role in the pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk* in Bournemouth. His last spell overseas, however, was not a great success. He was dismissed by Queensland in 1988 after barely one season.



Botham: still a big draw

England sweep past Australia

FROM RICHARD EATON IN BARCELONA

THE England women's table tennis team scored a 3-0 victory over Australia here in the World Team Cup yesterday, which put them third in their group and pleased their captain, Jill Parker. Victories against North Korea and Hungary had never been likely, but to finish so well against such an improved side was an encouraging sign.

Australia's improvement is greatly due to the introduction in their team recently of two players from Canton, Gina Hui, whose patience Lisa Lo-mas, the England No. 1, gradually eroded to beat 21-17, 21-9, and Kwok Ying, whose attack was not quite so good as the counter-attack of Andrea Holt, who won 21-17, 21-19.

Kerri Tepper, the former Australian No. 1, held three match points in the last match, but met stern resistance from Fiona Ellis, who won 14-21, 21-16, 23-21.

The men produced one of their finest performances the night before, coming within two points of beating the world champions, Sweden.

Carl Prean managed a career-best performance, beating the world champion, Jorgen Persson, and the Olympic bronze medalist, Erik Lindh, leaving England needing only to beat the United States, to reach the quarter-finals.



Holt: won well

Results, page 39

France seek Villepreux

FRANCE, without a national coach since the resignation of Daniel Dubroca after the World Cup, have approached Pierre Villepreux, the former Toulouse coach (Peter Bills writes).

Jean-Fabre, who will replace Albert Ferrasse as president of the French Rugby Federation (FFR) on December 14, has asked Villepreux to be the new senior coach.

Fabre, a former president of the Toulouse club, intends to put together the coaching duo which won Toulouse the French club championship three times in four years. That would mean bringing back

Villepreux from Italy, where he is coaching Treviso, and reuniting him with Jean-Claude Skrela, his successor as Toulouse chief coach.

The French have long admired the combination of Villepreux's creativity and Skrela's fitness work. However, Villepreux's two-year contract with the Italian club began in August. He said from Italy yesterday: "Of course, I would like to do the job with France. But I am not sure whether Treviso would let me go."

Lineker in land of rising yen

As Japan prepares for professional football, Joanna Pitman, in Nagoya, sees pitfalls awaiting the Englishman in the leading role.

HAVING been scooped up on one of corporate Japan's famous brand-name shopping sprees, Gary Lineker is going to be working hard to teach Japan what football is all about. In February 1993, he begins a two-year contract as the "superplayer figurehead" of Grampus Eight, a Nagoya-based club in Japan's first professional football league.

While less charitable critics have charged that the "Eight" is the result of Japanese confusion between football and rowing team numbers, it is clear that to most Japanese, the word "football" means American football and the British version, distinguished by its Japanese name, "sakkaa", will slot in somewhere between volleyball and curling.

It appears that even Lineker's proposed teammates will be new to the game. He is likely to spend his first few months explaining the rules to pimply adolescents, who will join Grampus Eight next year, having been brought up on a daily diet of baseball and sumo wrestling.

Playing alongside Lineker, and the raw recruits, will be members of Japan's amateur

football teams, people like the deputy section chief of the Toyota domestic windscreen wipers accounts division, who slogs away at a desk for more than 70 hours a week, and kicks a football around on Sundays to keep his heart ticking over.

But, however infuriating his sort may be on the pitch for worldly professionals, the Toyota element is all-important. It is Toyota (with assets of £38 billion), Tokai Bank (with assets of £162 billion) and 18 other companies from the Nagoya region that are providing the league with funding of one billion yen, and will lay down many more billions to lure the World Cup in 2002.

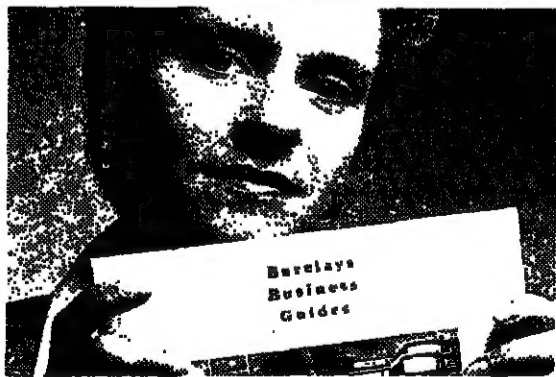
The sponsoring companies are taking a long-term view on their returns, as the average Japanese football game draws a crowd of 4,000. What they are after, in the short term, however, is marketing. Like the leading players of the Nippon Hams baseball team, who munch, presumably for large

fees, strings of sausages on prime-time television to advertise their sponsor, it will not be long before Japanese viewers are treated to the sight of a grinning Gary Lineker extolling the virtues of Toyota's latest sporty model.

Before he can do that, he will have to put in several thousand hours boning up on his Japanese which, at present is, according to his non-English speaking director, Narumi Nishigaki, "only a tiny little words".

But, memorising 2,000 Japanese characters and learning how to swallow raw sea urchin and pickles for the early-morning team breakfast is going to be the easy part. For if Lineker thought his spell in Japan would earn him a respite from the arduous English League schedule, he was mistaken. The Japanese play an 11-month season with a minimum of 50 matches. Then, he gets his first few days off,

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